

PREFACE

In "A New Direction for Canada - An Agenda for Economic Renewal", the Government indicated that it "will examine, as a matter of priority, and in close consultation with the provinces and the private sector, all avenues to secure and enhance market access. This will include a careful analysis of options for bilateral trade liberalization with the United States in the light of various private sector proposals, as well as preparations for and opportunities provided by multilateral trade negotiations".

This Discussion Paper is intended to serve as the basis of that examination. It is divided into three parts. Part I discusses the importance of trade to Canada's economic growth and the international trade environment in terms of market opportunities and challenges facing Canadian exporters. Part II considers the implications of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, with a view to establishing Canadian objectives and priorities for such negotiations. Finally, Part III addresses possible bilateral approaches with the USA, reflecting the importance of that market and the associated vulnerability of Canadian exports to protectionist threats.

My goals in releasing this document are:

- to elicit information, views and perceptions on our principal market access problems and on our own import barriers;
- to consult on ways and means to address these problems effectively and efficiently; and
- to establish, in cooperation with the provinces, a strategy to achieve Canadian market access objectives.

I sincerely hope that all interested Canadians will actively participate in this important debate.



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