

Though we cannot rewrite history, we can prevent history from repeating itself.

Once the Agreement is implemented, you will be able to appeal future disputes to an impartial, binational panel. You will no longer have to look over your shoulder or be afraid of being too successful in the U.S. market.

If you play by the rules of the game and you gain market share in the U.S., you will be protected from harassment by U.S. competitors.

More secure and predictable access to the richest market in the world will allow the people of this province to diversify their industrial base.

It is also important for the heart of B.C.'s economy -- forest products.

Forest products account for 45 percent of the province's exports. As you know, U.S. trade actions have been particularly severe for this industry. The dispute settlement provisions will go a long way towards creating a rational and secure environment for our forest product exports.

In addition to opening up opportunities for increased exports of forest products, the Agreement will restore duty-free treatment of exports of western red cedar shingles, when current emergency tariffs are terminated. The Agreement also provides that Canada can retain its control on log exports, something which will preserve jobs in B.C. mills.

Agriculture is also a major industry in this province. The Agreement sets out a package of trade-liberalizing measures, many of which are product specific.

For example, Canada and the United States have exempted each other from restrictions under our respective meat import laws. This means free trade in beef and veal.

The Agreement gives special protection to B.C. fruit and vegetable producers. For 20 years, we will be able to apply special tariffs when prices are abnormally low.