

ABOUT CANADA'S TRADE STRATEGY



Trade expansion in United States and overseas markets is vital to continuing Canadian prosperity. We have intensified our export promotion efforts in the U.S., the Pacific Rim and the European Community over the last two years. Securing and enhancing access to foreign markets for Canadian exports is the most important dimension of our trade strategy.

Accordingly, the Government of Canada is now actively pursuing trade liberalization in the multilateral negotiations with the 93 countries in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Of crucial importance, we are in the midst of negotiations with the United States on a comprehensive bilateral free trade arrangement which would secure and enshrine our mutual trading relationship, the largest in the world.

An outline of an agreement between Canada and the United States is emerging. Fleshing out the framework at the bargaining table is the task of the next few months. Should it bear fruit in a trade treaty of reciprocal benefit which finds approval by Canadians and Americans, we shall make an historic advance along the path of free and fair trade. Such an event would also give impetus to the GATT negotiations.

The trade negotiations are about Canada's future. They are about jobs – 21st century jobs. They are about economic growth for Canada's regions. They are about creating the wealth to nurture the social and cultural policies which sustain our national identity. For Canada, there can be no doubt that stemming the tide of protectionism and opening up access to world markets is the route to progress and prosperity.

This publication is intended to provide Canadians with general information as to why the Government of Canada is undertaking its two-track negotiations, what they are all about, what our objectives are, the significance of trade to Canada's economic performance and answers to a number of questions in the public discussion of our trade strategy.

Pat Carney

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