

But he also said the essence of the Canadian difference would be maintained: "Our political sovereignty, our system of social programs, our commitment to fight regional disparities, our unique cultural identity, our special linguistic character" would not be negotiable.

That was our position at the beginning of the negotiations, and it is our position now.

Last Saturday, the Prime Minister sent his Chief of Staff to the White House to reiterate these basic positions.

These principles are the bottom line for us.

There are five of them:

1. Clear rules on what is fair or unfair trade practices with disagreement subject to impartial, binational and definitive resolution.
2. Objective interpretation of clear general rules subject to speedy resolution under agreed dispute settlement procedures.
3. Liberalizing the access for each other's agricultural and food products in a balanced way.
4. Changes in automotive trade rules only if the changes potentially increase production and employment in both countries.
5. Removal of virtually all tariff and non-tariff barriers between the two countries with no new barriers introduced.

Let there be no mistake: without them there can be no deal.

And the most crucial of them, for Canada, is an effective and definitive way of settling disputes.

Without that, there is no secure access to the American market.

Canadians believe, with some justification, that Americans unfairly apply their trade remedy laws against our exports. We want to remove this from political protectionism.