

Sector Free Trade Initiative

My congratulations to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association for their sponsorship of this Conference. I am sure that I speak for all participants in welcoming this opportunity to discuss a topic which could have a significant bearing on Canada's future economic performance and on our relations with our major trading partner, the United States.

The Government's decision to examine the pros and cons of limited sectoral free trade with the United States is beginning to generate significant public interest. This is most welcome. I believe it is highly appropriate that the initiative and the issues it presents should be openly aired and argued and that the process should involve those who stand to be directly affected, Canadian consumers, Canadian workers, and of course Canadian manufacturers represented by your Association. My fervent hope is that the debate will focus on real