

News Release

Communiqué

Minister for
International
Trade



Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur

No. 201

September 19, 1988.

U.S. SENATE PASSES FREE TRADE LEGISLATION

The Minister for International Trade, John C. Crosbie, welcomed the passage by the U.S. Senate today of the legislation implementing the Canada-U.S.A. Free Trade Agreement.

"I am pleased that the final Congressional hurdle has been overcome", said Mr. Crosbie. "Despite the reservations expressed by a few Senators, the overwhelming bipartisan support given the Free Trade Bill is a clear boost for trade expansion which I hope will be carried forward into the Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations now underway".

The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 83 to 9. Its passage follows approval in the House of Representatives which voted in favour on August 9 by a margin of 366 to 40. The remaining step for the bill to become law is for it to be signed by the President. The Free Trade Agreement is scheduled to come into force on January 1, 1989, if implementing legislation is passed by that time in both countries.

"Now that the U.S. approval process is virtually complete, it is up to Canadians to ensure that this historic opportunity is not lost", said Mr. Crosbie. "The benefits this agreement will bring to Canada are within our reach. We must not let them slip away".

Canadian legislation to implement the Free Trade Agreement, Bill C-130, has passed the House of Commons and is currently before the Senate for approval.