

- . a review of country-of-origin labelling requirements. Canadian consumers have a right to be able to distinguish adequately between domestic and imported goods.
- . the establishment of Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGITs) for both textiles and clothing. The Government is working closely with industry representatives on both the MFA negotiations and the renewal of Canada's bilateral agreements.

Balancing Interests

In acting to preserve textile and clothing jobs, we cannot lose sight of the fact that there is a significant cost involved for Canadian consumers. The Textile and Clothing Board estimates that the cost of quotas alone, not including tariffs, is between \$300 and \$350 million per year. That translates to a cost of about \$60 each year for a family of four.

Nor can we forget that trade is a two-way street. Many countries that supply us with textiles and clothing are also important markets for Canadian exports.

The economic plight of the developing countries must also be considered. These countries have a right to improve their economic circumstances and, in many cases, the labour-intensive clothing sector offers one of the few opportunities to generate industrial jobs and to earn badly needed foreign exchange.

There are no simple or cost-free solutions, and many conflicting interests must be balanced. In doing so, however, this Government is committed to maintaining a viable level of textile and clothing production in Canada and to ensuring that these industries have a more stable and secure environment in which to plan their future.