

- (10) Because we have settled major trade issues with the U.S. in the Free Trade Agreement, Canada can now concentrate in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations under GATT on gaining access for our products in important global markets. One such important goal in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations will be to gain improved access for fish products to important markets, like the European Community, that have erected protectionist barriers against our exports.

Those are ten reasons to support Free Trade, ten reasons based on the text of the Agreement, ten reasons based on the facts.

I would like to outline now ten myths about Free Trade, ten criticisms based on a misreading of the Agreement, ten alarms raised by Free Trade opponents without any basis in fact.

Myth #1

- Ed Broadbent has said that social services are covered by the Free Trade Agreement and that Canadians will have to adopt the U.S. approach, for example, in medical care.

Facts

- The only services covered are those listed in Annex 1408 of the Agreement. Government, not-for-profit, and social services (like medicare or programs for seniors) are not listed and, therefore, are not covered.
- Commercially-provided laboratory and health care management services are listed, but because provincial governments can perform these services publicly or contract them out to whomever they please, U.S. firms can participate only if provincial governments choose to let them.
- In short, Canadians will continue to decide what social programs they want and how they will be provided.

Myth #2

- John Turner has said that Canada's social programs are threatened by the Free Trade Agreement because more open competition will force Canada to cut back on the burden of social programs to remain competitive with the U.S.