

- Establish dispute settlement mechanisms that include binding binational resolution of any disputes arising between the parties out of the agreement and concerning countervailing duties, anti-dumping and import safeguards.

I'd like to talk briefly about what that will mean to Ontario before dealing with the specifics of the agreement.

No part of Canada has more to gain.

Ontario's economy has been built on its trade with the United States, and more than 90 per cent of its exports go to the U.S.

Two-thirds of those exports are in the automotive sector, and the auto trade agreement can only enhance that trade.

Ontario farmers, (whose output is the largest of all the provinces) will benefit from more secure access to the American market. The interests of the dairy, poultry, fresh fruit and vegetable producers are safeguarded.

Canada's services industries, most of which are based in Ontario, will have easier access to the U.S. market.

Ontario's exports of electricity will be more secure and new opportunities have been provided for the financial services industry.

What does it all mean to the average Canadian?

Well, for one thing, every economic study we've seen says it means jobs and business opportunities for Canadians.

Every Canadian is naturally going to wonder what the effects will be on his or her everyday life. I'd like to say we have all the answers -- we don't -- but part of that may be because we haven't yet heard all the questions.

Many Canadians are still unsure of what free trade means.

A woman in Windsor recently said she was against free trade because all the Americans from Detroit would swamp the city.

Obviously there was a little confusion there between free trade and free immigration.

Another Canadian asked if free trade meant you could bring anything you wanted back from the U.S. without paying duty.