

QUEBEC

Canada's new Free Trade Agreement with the United States offers tremendous opportunities to the Quebec economy and Quebecers. The success of the negotiations means more jobs and lower prices for Quebecers and all Canadians.

With three-quarters of Quebec's exports going to the U.S. it is vital for the province, and the jobs of hundreds of thousands of Quebecers, that the free flow of trade between Canada and the U.S. not only remain open but also be further developed. This has been achieved.

KEY BENEFITS

Key provisions of the Agreement for Quebec are the progressive elimination of tariffs and the new mechanisms to settle disputes.

Tariff reductions will increase the scope for further processing of resource-based products in the province of Quebec where previously these products faced high U.S. tariffs. The Agreement will also lower the cost of imports of a whole range of products to be used as inputs to final products. The Agreement also means lower prices, more variety and selection for consumers.

The creation of a binding binational dispute settlement mechanism ensures better management of our trading relationship as a whole and, as it applies to anti-dumping and countervailing duties, begins the process of joint oversight of our laws dealing with unfair trade practices. Over the next five years, the two countries will negotiate a substitute system of anti-dumping and countervail laws in both countries that will further increase our security of access to the U.S. market.

Finally, the Agreement with respect to emergency import measures will ensure that means are in place to deal with serious injury to Quebec producers, while at the same time securing Canadian exports against U.S. safeguard actions not directed at Canada.

This can only provide greater security of access to the U.S. market for Canadian exporters. That is precisely what the Government set out to achieve.