

News Release

Communiqué

Minister for
International
Trade



Ministre du
Commerce
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SECOND MEETING OF THE
CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE COMMISSION

The Honourable John C. Crosbie, Minister for International Trade and Ambassador Carla Hills, United States Trade Representative, met in Ottawa on November 30 for the second meeting of the Canada-United States Trade Commission established by the Free Trade Agreement.

The mandate of the Commission is to supervise the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement, resolve disputes and ensure the evolution of the agreement in the mutual interest of Canada and the United States.

Minister Crosbie and Ambassador Hills expressed their overall satisfaction with the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement. While the Agreement has only been in effect for eleven months, exporters in both countries were already beginning to take advantage of the opportunities created by the new Agreement. Minister Crosbie and Ambassador Hills noted that the Agreement has a ten year transition period, and that additional trade and investment opportunities would open as barriers are phased down during this period.

Minister Crosbie and Ambassador Hills reviewed a number of the current trade disputes between the two countries. The Ministers noted that most of these disputes did not arise from new obligations created by the FTA. The Ministers expressed their joint commitment to try to resolve these problems, which clearly are important to those involved in each instance. The Ministers agreed it was important not to allow disputes involving a very small fraction of the bilateral relationship to detract from the mutually beneficial relationship we enjoy in the vast majority of our trade.

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