



News Release

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INDUSTRY AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER WILSON CALLS FOR TRADE BARRIER REDUCTION PROPOSALS

The Honourable Michael H. Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, called today for written submissions from producers, exporters, importers and other interested Canadians outlining their specific interests in market access for goods and services under the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The governments of Canada, the United States and Mexico have agreed to work toward the elimination of existing trade barriers on all goods of North American origin. It is expected that some barriers will be reduced immediately when NAFTA becomes law, while others will be phased out gradually over a period of years, as was the case in the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The Government is inviting the submissions to identify areas where Canada should press for quick elimination of tariffs between Canada and Mexico. As well, the Government wants advice on removal of Mexican and United States non-tariff barriers to trade in goods and services. The Government also wants to hear of areas where Canadian producers may wish time to adjust to free trade under a NAFTA.

As negotiators for the three countries are now discussing various tariff phase-out options, the submissions should be received in Ottawa as soon as possible and no later than September 15, 1991.

Mr. Wilson said the Government seeks all relevant information to formulate as clear a picture as possible of the specific trade interests that can be promoted in these negotiations. "We want all interested Canadians, including business, labour and other groups, to have the opportunity to give the Government the benefit of their experience and interest in international trade."