



Minister for  
International Trade

Ministre du  
Commerce extérieur

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# COMMUNIQUÉ

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CANADIAN STATEMENT TO GATT COUNCIL CONCERNING  
U.S. COUNTERVAILING DUTY PETITION AGAINST  
CANADIAN SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Canada's Minister for International Trade, James Kelleher, released a copy of the statement made by the Canadian Ambassador at the GATT Council meeting held today in Geneva.

The statement expressed concern that a new countervailing duty investigation had been initiated by the United States. The Canadian statement noted that there have been no material changes in Canadian practice and no relevant changes in United States countervail law in the period since the previous investigation on softwood lumber products was concluded in 1983. The decision to re-examine Canadian provincial stumpage practices represents unjustifiable trade harassment in itself, and could lead to the improper application of countervailing duties.

The Canadian government is deeply concerned about the specific issues raised in the case and therefore will be requesting a special meeting of the GATT Subsidies and Countervailing Duties Committee to review the facts of this case on an urgent basis.

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