

COUNTRY IN THE WORLD IS MORE COMMITTED THAN CANADA, TO MAKING THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE MORE TRANSPARENT AND FAIR.

BUT NOT ALL SECTORS ARE OF EQUAL WEIGHT. WE, AS DO OTHER COUNTRIES, RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN SECTORS BASED ON CERTAIN EXPLICIT CRITERIA. IN THE U.S., YOU CAST THE NET OF "NATIONAL SECURITY" OVER MORE AREAS THAN WE; IN CANADA, WE CAST THE NET OF CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY MORE WIDELY THAN YOU. WE MAY DISAGREE, BUT WE SHOULD ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT FRIENDLY RELATIONS REQUIRE A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THOSE DIFFERENCES.

BUT THAT COMMITMENT TO CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY SHOULD NOT STOP US FROM SEEKING BETTER TRADE RULES FOR CULTURAL INDUSTRIES. FROM CANADA'S POINT OF VIEW, BETTER RULES ARE BOTH POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE.

FOR EXAMPLE, CANADIAN PERFORMING ARTISTS AND WRITERS HAVE PROVEN THEIR EXCELLENCE BUT THEY HAVE FOUND U.S. IMMIGRATION RULES A BARRIER TO ACCESS. OUR FILM MAKERS WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE THEIR PRESENCE IN THE U.S. MARKET BUT HAVE FOUND THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM A MAJOR OBSTACLES.