

APPENDIX III: LETTER OF INVITATION

March 29, 2001

Name
Position
Organization
Address
City, BC Postal Code

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for agreeing to join the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation's Roundtable on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The Roundtable will be held on Friday, April 6 in the Segal Room at SFU Harbour Centre (515 West Hastings Street).

Please join us at 9 AM for coffee and muffins; this will give you a chance to meet the other participants in the Roundtable. We will get started at 9:30 AM sharp, and end at 4:00 PM.

We are very pleased that people representing a wide variety of sectors and perspectives have agreed to bring their voices to the table. As there will be no more than 40 people present, there will be plenty of opportunity to share ideas and learn together.

We have enclosed three short readings from a range of perspectives for you to take a look at in advance of the Roundtable:

1. A speech by Pierre Pettigrew, Minister for International Trade, on the FTAA
2. The summary of 'Inside the Fortress: What's Going on at the FTAA Negotiations' by Marc Lee of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
3. 'Canada and the FTAA: the Hemispheric Bloc Temptation' by Jean Daudelin and Maureen Appel Molot of the North South Institute and Norman Patterson School for International Affairs.

Before coming to the Roundtable, we ask that you review these readings and think about how trade agreements, and the integration into the global economy in general, have affected your sector. If you have time, it would be very helpful if you could jot your thoughts down in a paragraph to give to the rapporteur.

At the first FTAA meeting in Miami in 1994, we were told that the FTAA would 'strengthen democracy, eradicate poverty and guarantee sustainable development.' This roundtable gives you the chance to discuss the kinds of policies you think the Government of Canada should be pursuing in order to promote these three fundamental principles. You do not need to be a trade expert to do so; the experience and perspective of your sector is invaluable. The recommendations made in this Roundtable will be sent to the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, who have funded the roundtable.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, Jessie Smith, at (604) 2544-4409 or rain@web.net.

Sincerely,

Jessie Smith
Roundtable Coordinator