

The Canadian vision of the New World is different from the American Dream. It is based on our own values, born of our culture, our history, our climate and geography. Canadians have a right to demand that their Government preserve these values and protect them.

As the Prime Minister said when announcing in the House of Commons the Government's intention to pursue this trade agreement, "Our political sovereignty, our system of social programs, our commitment to fight regional disparities, our unique cultural identity, our special linguistic character - these are the essence of Canada. They are not at issue in these negotiations".

When the "National Policy" was introduced in 1879 Canada was a struggling infant. Trade barriers were seen as a necessary part of a general economic program aimed at linking the new country together on an east-west axis, settling the west through a transcontinental transportation system, and building a domestic manufacturing sector.

But that new Canadian maturity does not reduce the concern that commercial negotiations, might somehow, diminish our cultural sovereignty. The questions becomes: how do we guarantee canadian cultural sovereignty during the trade negotiations.