

IF THE GATT IS THE DOOR TO INCREASED CANADIAN OPPORTUNITY, THE FTA IS THE KEY TO OUR ABILITY TO SEIZE THESE OPPORTUNITIES. IT IS A MAJOR IMPETUS FOR CANADIAN COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF SPECIALIZATION AND SCALE. AND IT IS A CATALYST FOR VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTION IN CANADA THROUGH THE ELIMINATION OF HIGH TARIFFS ON VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS.

WE HAVE ASSEMBLED A FIRST RATE TEAM TO MANAGE THE RELATIONSHIP;

THE COMMISSION HAS HELD ITS FIRST MEETING;

THE TARIFF ACCELERATION PROCESS HAS PROMPTED THOUSANDS OF REQUESTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER;

THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PANELLISTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED, AS HAVE THE MEMBERS OF THE BLUE CHIP PANEL ON AUTOMOTIVE TRADE;

SOME DISPUTES ARE BEING ADJUDICATED;

THE TECHNICAL GROUPS ARE GETTING DOWN TO WORK; AND