

News Release

Minister for
International
Trade



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CANADIAN RASPBERRY EXPORTERS WIN THEIR FTA CASE

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie said today that the dispute settlement process of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has allowed two British Columbia red raspberry exporters to challenge successfully the imposition of U.S. duties on their products.

The U.S. has decided to drop the duties for the two companies after a panel established under Chapter 19 of the FTA instructed the U.S. Department of Commerce to provide an explanation of the methodology it used in calculating the level of duties levied on several Canadian exporters.

The FTA panel found that the Department of Commerce findings were defective in several areas and were not supported by the evidence on record. As a result of the review, the Department of Commerce has indicated the antidumping duties imposed on Clearbrook Processors Ltd. and Mukhtiar & Sons Processing Ltd. from June 1986 to June 1987 will be refunded.

"This decision by the first Chapter 19 panel shows that the FTA dispute settlement process ensures the fair application of trade laws for Canadian or American companies in a timely fashion," Mr. Crosbie said.

The panel process provides for a period ending May 22, 1990, during which time Clearbrook and Mukhtiar can comment on the decision.

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