

to the United States' bilateral and international trade obligations.

The Government of Canada will work closely with our provincial counterparts and the lumber industry to fight these actions. Furthermore, we will ask for the immediate establishment of a GATT panel to confirm our view that our timber pricing practices do not constitute a countervailable subsidy to Canadian lumber producers.

We want to resolve our differences on the issue in a manner that respects our mutual obligations and the mutual significance of the largest two-way trading relationship in the world.

The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations is Canada's current top trade priority. Because we have witnessed the effectiveness of liberalizing trade with the U.S., our most important market, we are redoubling our efforts to achieve a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round. At the same time, we are seeking to open up new markets through the North American Free Trade Agreement talks.

In the pursuit of improved market access, the signing of the FTA was a major accomplishment. We are optimistic that we will emerge from the GATT negotiations with a stronger set of international trade rules, giving Canada increased opportunities in world markets.

The trilaterals with the U.S. and Mexico are designed to create a free trade area of 360 million people, which will offer further export potential for Canadian companies.

There are solid prospects for success in both the trilateral and multilateral forums. I am equally confident that we will see antiquated barriers to inter-provincial commerce fall here at home.

Today, Canada is at an historic turning point. The fundamental basis for our political and economic systems is being questioned as never before. In response, over the last few months, the Government of Canada has carried out extensive constitutional consultations across the country.

The Government recently announced a crucial initiative which will help reshape many of our political structures. It addresses many of the concerns people in all parts of the country expressed during the consultations.

Whether they're from Quebec, Western Canada, Ontario, the North or Atlantic Canada, all Canadians have made it clear they want to have a voice in this important task before us.