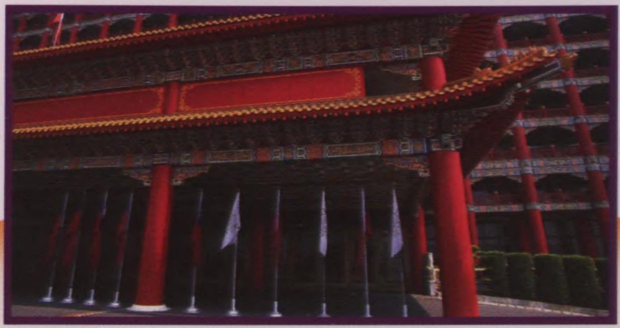

What does this mean for Canada?

Canada is a major trading nation; an estimated one in four of our jobs depends on exports, which represent about 41% of our gross domestic product. In 2002, Canada's total two-way trade in goods and services was $891 billion, or $2.4 billion every day. However, while most foreign products enter Canada duty-free or at fairly low tariff rates, some of our exports face very high tariffs (in some cases more than 100%).

Trade liberalization is sure to benefit Canadian exporters, the vast majority of which are small or medium-sized enterprises. Canadian businesses are world-class, and our trade in the fast-growing services sector is likely to expand significantly. This will result in increased productivity and competitiveness, and greater access to technology, investment and customers.

The country as a whole will benefit as well: a growing body of research strongly suggests that open trade means better jobs, higher incomes, greater revenues for social programs and better prices for consumers. And in a fair, rules-based system, all countries—including developing countries—stand to benefit as well.

The Doha Development Agenda addresses a number of our key concerns, including market access for agricultural products, clarification of rules on anti-dumping and subsidies, transparency in government procurement, continued liberalization in the services sector, facilitation of e-commerce, and reduction of red tape. A package of measures aimed at helping developing countries to adapt to WTO rules reflects the priorities Canada had set before going into the negotiations. And as usual, Canada has not committed to any negotiations that would open up its health, public education or cultural sectors.