

Economic Integration: Small Business Support

QUESTION

In the end, isn't the FTAA really just being done to satisfy the needs of a few dozen large multinationals? What is the position of small business on the FTAA?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The FTAA will improve the prospects of all Canadian businesses, large or small, by enhancing their access to foreign markets and increasing their attractiveness as investment partners.
- Like large companies, Canadian small businesses understand benefits of free trade and support the FTAA. They look to the FTAA to bring down barriers, provide better market access and facilitate trade and investment.
- Small businesses also appreciate the labour, environment and human rights dimensions of the FTAA and expect that Canada will negotiate a solid agreement in these regards.
- The recent success of the Team Canada '98 trade mission to Latin America demonstrates the interest of small business in the region. Some 306 deals were signed, the most of any Team Canada, mostly involving small and medium-sized businesses.