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Questions

Please comment on:

1) Areas of export interest, including products for which the CA-4 countries should eliminate tariffs more rapidly and/or remove other barriers to trade.

In addition to removing barriers to trade, what is also necessary, assuming we want to create a sustainable future along with economic growth, is to negotiate the reduction of economic subsidies, incentives and taxes that essentially reward the things in society we do not want (pollution, consumption, waste), and penalize the things we do want (employment, income, etc.). That is a great challenge.

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2) Areas where there may be concerns if access to the Canadian market was to be improved for products from CA-4 countries.

3) Suggestions on trade facilitation issues e.g. impediments related to customs or other import-related procedures.

4) The possible inclusion of services within the scope of negotiations and services sectors in CA-4 markets that could be a target for further liberalization (eg. market access issues such as limitations on the number of firms or individuals allowed in a foreign market to provide a service).

5) The possible inclusion of investment within the scope of negotiations, problems faced by Canadian investors in CA-4 countries and the type of rules that would provide Canadian investors with better access, treatment and protection for their investments (Describe any investment barriers or impediments, such as limits on foreign investment, local content requirements, restrictions on capital transfers, etc., that you may have encountered because you are a foreign investor).

6) Any other issue of interest to your firm.

As long as these trade agreements don't require governments to forfeit their rights to implement stronger labour and environmental standards, I'm fine with it. But when these agreements create an incredible chill over environmental policy development, the public loses. In this case, the gov't has essentially compromised the public good for the sake of economic gain, and this of course, leads to a dead-end future. Remember, the role of the government is to ensure the public good is represented in its entirety, not the will of corporations to the exclusion of other interests in society.

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Names and email address(es) for other people you think would like to provide their views and comments on this free trade agreement initiative:
(Separate multiple values with a semi-colon ";")