

The agreement addresses these concerns by establishing a Canada-U.S. Trade Commission at the political level to oversee and manage matters covered by the agreement. Trade issues of concern to either side will be referred to the Commission for resolution, either by consultations or under the terms of a new dispute settlement mechanism, including matters related to trade remedy laws (i.e. safeguard measures). With respect to countervailing and anti-dumping duties, we have agreed a) to negotiate over the next five years a new regime to deal with these measures, b) to establish a joint panel to guarantee the impartial application of our respective existing laws, and c) to put in place safeguards to ensure that these laws are not changed to our detriment over the next five years.

These provisions of the agreement are a major step forward in securing the access of PEI exporters to the U.S. market. With respect to the difficult issue of subsidies and countervailing duties, it provides us with the necessary time to negotiate clear rules of the game that meet our shared concern about unfair trade, as well as provide scope to pursue important national and provincial objectives such as regional development. In short, the agreement sets a course for increasing the attractiveness of PEI and Canada as a location for investment to serve the U.S. market.

4) Improved conditions for trade in agriculture while preserving scope for support programs. During the negotiations, there was concern expressed that the talks would bring about fundamental changes to the scope for government support of our farming sector. It should be clear that this did not happen, nor was it our intention. The system of marketing boards and supply management schemes (including quotas on imports) and our related rights under the GATT (Article XI) remain intact. PEI's dairy, poultry and egg producers have nothing to fear from this agreement. Further, our scope for adding products to this system remains intact, should we decide that it is in our best interest.

The deal on agriculture includes elimination of all tariffs (most over ten years, with average tariff of 6%), as well as elimination of the threat of quotas on some sugar-containing products. Recognizing the special situation of our producers of horticultural products which benefit from seasonal tariffs, we will be allowed during the next 20 years to restore, temporarily, tariffs on fresh fruit and vegetables under depressed price conditions.

We have also reached agreement that technical regulations and inspection procedures, such as those that have affected exports of potatoes, will no longer be used to frustrate trade. Finally, we have agreed not to use direct