

In addition to pursuit of an interim trade agreement, exchanges of technical information in preparation for Chile's full NAFTA accession will continue during the coming months among the three present NAFTA partners, Canada, Mexico and the United States, and Chile.

"Canada remains strongly committed to furthering trade liberalization throughout the hemisphere," Mr. MacLaren said. "An interim Canada-Chile agreement will assist Chile's accession to the NAFTA, which in turn will increase momentum to an eventual Free Trade Agreement of the Americas."

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