

manufacturers and accordingly an important factor in their competitive position.

Steel Mills on both sides of the border buy their raw material from the same suppliers, and in many cases share ownership of those sources of supply. Sales to customers are normally made on the basis of continental bidding and supply, with just-in-time delivery and strict supplier qualifications.

Look at the rise in cross-border investments within the industry: over half of the members of the Canadian Steel Producers Association own facilities in the U.S. or participate in joint ventures with U.S. mills. In addition, at least three U.S. steel companies have ownership interests in Canada.

The fact that Canada was not included in either the 1984 or 1989 U.S. voluntary restraint agreements reflected the fact of our integrated market (and made our inclusion in the rash of U.S. anti-dumping actions two years ago all that much harder to understand).

The Canadian and U.S. steel industries have extraordinarily close relations, not just through association memberships and shared R&D [Research and Development] efforts, and not just through the shared experience of working with the same union, but also through direct company-to-company ties:

- When Dofasco had a breakout in its blast furnace, it received calls from all over North America offering assistance;
- When Wiererton Steel suffered a fire in its rolling mill, Stelco took up the slack in providing hot rolling services so that Wiererton could continue to meet the needs of its customers;
- When it came to demonstrating the value of steel-framed housing at the Habitat for Humanity exhibition in Georgia a few weeks ago, Canadian and American CEOs [Chief Executive Officers] literally worked side-by-side.

That kind of co-operation, combined with fair competition, has helped strengthen the fabric of the North American steel industry, which is one of the pillars of our integrated economy.

The increased efficiency of our modern new plants, the improvements in quality and product innovation have improved the lives of all our citizens, and should continue to do so.

The Government of Canada wants to see a strong North American steel industry, not harmed by unfair competition — boatloads of