

Why is Free Trade with the U.S. important for Canada's position as an exporter globally? As the MacDonald Royal Commission pointed out, Canada is the only major industrialized country without secure access to a market of at least 100 million people.

The United States and Japan have it. The countries of the European community have it. And for Canada to continue to develop world class enterprises, capable of competing and winning against the best in the world, we need it too.

The Opposition is dismissive of the gains we have made in achieving more secure and enhanced access to the U.S. market. But those directly involved in the day to day business of exporting know better.

They know that access will be improved because:

- tariffs will be phased out,
- better rules of origin will be put in place,
- national treatment will be extended to Canadian businesses in the U.S.,
- non-tariff barriers such as discriminating product standards will be reduced,
- access to federal government procurement will be improved,
- certain service industries will gain freer access to the U.S. market, and
- temporary entry for business people and service personnel will be made easier.

They know that access will be made more secure because:

- the AutoPact will be reaffirmed,
- "safeguards" actions by the U.S. will not apply to Canada if the problem arises from a third country... what the experts call "no sideswipe",
- "safeguards" actions against Canadian producers will be subject to binding dispute settlement,