

A bilateral agreement on beef would have to include agreements on health standards and inspection, protection of national herds, diseases, as well as mechanisms to discuss extensive domestic policy initiatives impacting the industry as well as co-ordinated policy toward third market exporters.

Free trade welcome idea

IPSCO (International Pipe and Steel Company, Roger Phillips, President and Chief Executive Officer) supported the immediate negotiation of an across-the-board enhanced trade agreement with the U.S., enforced access to other markets, and an end to government subsidization (particularly in the U.S. and Canada). IPSCO also said that sectoral negotiations with the U.S. would be an impossible exercise.

Further, Canada should not put preferential tariff rates on steel from developing nations when the domestic steel industry is closed off from these highly subsidized markets.

The U.S. is also restricting its market to other steel markets (i.e., Canada) of late when the steel industry in North America is substantially integrated.

There is a need for enhanced access to markets beyond our borders, and the need for controlled access to our markets by nations not trading by the same rules, Mr. Phillips said. But IPSCO was not pointing the finger at the U.S. Mr. Phillips said he recognized that on the whole the U.S. trades "fairly".

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The Canadian Federation of Agriculture felt that the subject of agriculture should not be part of the Canada-United States