

The Committee will be chaired by Mr. Walter Light, past President and Chief Executive Officer of Northern Teelcom. Feeding in to the Committee will be more than 20 sectoral committees, comprised of representatives of business, labour, consumers, cultural industries, agriculture, academics and research organizations.

This is the most wide open negotiating process in the history of Canada. The only way to ensure success is to have our negotiators knowing, first hand, the impact of any proposals.

What the Government has done so far is to invite the United States to begin negotiations on trade between the two countries. There may be no negotiations, if Congress refuses to consider arrangements which would limit its power to threaten Canada with protectionist bills. And if the negotiations begin, they may come to nothing if Washington demands a price which we are not prepared to pay. But we believe we can strike a deal that would be good for Canada. We have no illusions, however, and we know Americans will be hard bargainers. If we cannot strike a deal that would benefit all of Canada, we will strike no deal at all.