

*Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement*

In the mining sector, for example, which is important to the Abitibi region, the investment climate and the mining industry's ability to compete will improve thanks to the more secure and predictable access to the American market which the Free Trade Agreement provides.

The metals sector will benefit from a more secure access to the American market and from lower investment and production costs thanks to the elimination of tariffs on certain manufactured products.

The minerals sector will get a wider and more secure access to the American market. Investment and production costs will decrease thanks to the elimination of tariffs on certain manufactured products.

Reduced formalities at the border for temporary visits will help Canadian companies specializing in geological and engineering services. This means that new opportunities will be created for Canadian mineral exploration and production companies. In this connection, one often thinks of a big region like ours, the Abitibi, which is one of the largest ridings in Canada and the largest in the ten provinces.

Transportation is mentioned. The Free Trade Agreement does not explicitly cover transport services. Demand for these services is expected to increase as a result of increased economic activity in Canada and greater circulation of goods between Canada and the United States.

Employment is expected to increase in the manufacture and maintenance of vehicles, locomotives and railway cars and in loading operations. Carriers are expected to incur lower equipment costs, thanks to the elimination of tariffs on transportation equipment.

Increased business travel means more demand for bus services, air services and passenger trains.

Construction: We know that many manufacturing companies export a great deal of lumber. Increased economic activity will generate new opportunities for home building and renovation. Eliminating tariffs in itself will result in lower production costs and the clauses of the Agreement affecting services will yield new openings for construction and for building trades in the American market.

In conclusion, we shall speak in the same vein about forestry. The elimination of tariffs and the dispute-settlement sections of the Agreement will give forest products more secure and wider access to the American market. This new access will increase American demand. As a result, there will be more job creation,

more new investments and more profits in the forest industry. Increased forestry activity will also encourage technological progress and thereby improved productivity. Forestation and forest management will continue under the Agreement.

So, Mr. Speaker, during the election campaign, the Socialist candidate in Abitibi stated that under this Agreement there was no manpower adjustment assistance. We have a surprise for this Socialist candidate! We had developed such a program a long time before the election, which means that under the Free Trade Agreement, the Canadian Government is responsible for ensuring that Canadian workers can fully avail themselves of the new employment opportunities, which is what it does at present.

It is estimated that 5.2 million Canadian men and women change jobs every year. The Canadian Jobs Strategy, with \$1.7 billion in the 1988-89 Estimates, exists to help these workers change jobs. Last year, of the more than 400,000 Canadian men and women who took part in Canadian Jobs Strategy programs, 80 per cent were able to secure employment or join in the labour force.

Under the Free Trade Agreement, the five Canadian Jobs Strategy programs which are relevant deal with employment development, job entry, skills investment, manpower shortage, and community futures programs. As far as the Community Futures programs are concerned, we had provided for the cost a long time before the Free Trade Agreement.

I was able to obtain six Communities Futures programs for the Abitibi region which will benefit Senneterre, Barraute, Lebel-sur-Quévillon, Joutel, Matagami, Malartic, Val d'Or, Amos and surrounding areas, Chapais, Chibougameau and Villebois, Beaucanton and Val-Paradis. In Abitibi, we are ready for the Free Trade Agreement.

In March 1988, a long time before the election campaign, Mr. Landry came to discuss free trade. That former PQ Minister praised the virtues of free trade. His remarks were very well received by the business people in Rouyn-Noranda and Senneterre. Mr. Bernard Landry had come to deal with an issue he knows very well and which is close to his heart. He felt that Canada has at least two good reasons to seek free trade, including the free circulation of goods between Canada and the United States. For that matter, with a domestic market of 25 million people, it is in a weak position when faced with international competition.