

And, now, we have agreed to open discussions with the United States, which could lead to a new bilateral trading agreement between our two countries.

More than three quarters of our total annual exports go to the U.S. markets. Obviously, we are extremely vulnerable to any protective trade actions taken by the United States, whether those actions are aimed at others, or at us.

Some people ask "Why worry about trade with the United States?"

Let me begin to answer by talking about one big threat, and three important roadblocks Canadians face today.

The threat is to thousands of existing Canadian jobs, which are being put at risk today by protectionism in the United States.

The roadblocks are "Buy America", safeguards, and countervail.

There are other obstacles to Canadian trade, built into the U.S. system, limiting Canadian jobs, but tonight let me talk about these three.