

Responses to Public Consultations on Canada - Central America Free Trade Negotiations

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32	Ronald A. Chisholm Ltd. Mr. Nicholas M. Walker Director Toronto ON	29 Jan. 2001	Exporter/ Meat and dairy products	For	<i>(Tariff reduction, trade facilitation, customs procedures)</i> - Have been exporting to these countries for a number of years and has strong long term relations with these markets. Concluding an FTA before the Americans would guarantee Canadian producers a better market share. - Current import duty rates for meat and dairy are b/w 15% and 50% for Costa Rica; in addition, import permits are required. An FTA should accelerate tariff elimination and eliminate import permits. - Due to various economic/climate conditions, Central American markets are not self-sufficient in animal protein.
33	SaskEnergy International Mr. David Easton Vice-President Saskatchewan	02 Feb. 2001	Energy/ Natural Gas	For	<i>(Investment)</i> - Are not currently looking to invest in Central America but are exploring opportunities in the Caribbean. Any FTA should contain the following provisions/elements: 1) No exchange controls or restrictions on the repatriation of capital; 2) Freedom to remit profits or royalties; 3) Guaranteeing non-discriminatory treatment; 4) Mature and predictable legal system; 5) A clear and transparent regulatory regime.
34	Scotiabank Mr. Richard E. Waugh Vice-Chairman Toronto ON	12 Feb. 2001	Financial Services	For	- El Salvador offers an open investment regime and its new Banking Law affords national treatment to foreign banks. Restrictions on foreign investment in local banks have been lifted and the new Investment Law permits unrestricted repatriation of net profits. The country has also strengthened its financial supervisory authorities and established an autonomous deposit insurance institution. It has also shown a strong commitment to markets, financial modernization and openness to foreign investment. - Other partners of the CA4 vary widely in their state of economic and political development (examples given). - Not immediately clear if a CDA-CA4 FTA will accelerate desired convergence of foreign investment and financial sector regulatory standards or if it will lead to more rapid progress in current GATS negotiations. Scope of their commitments under GATS varies widely.