

Canadian firms looking to sell to the US government will now be able to compete against American firms for an additional \$4 billion worth of business.

That figure of \$4 billion is significant to another area. That's also the amount of goods that our agricultural producers sell in the United States every year.

We've had some problems in that area in the last few years -- and some of them are such that Canada and the U.S. cannot solve them entirely between ourselves because they're global in scope.

We've agreed to work together through the GATT nations -- those which subscribe to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade -- to try and solve them.

But in the meantime, Canada's farmers will make real gains from the agreement.

By the end of the next decade agricultural and food products such as meat and livestock, grains and oilseeds and potatoes will be able to compete on an equal footing in the American market without tariffs and barriers at the border.

But the agreement leaves our agricultural marketing systems including the supply management systems for dairy, poultry and egg industries in place, and allows us to set up any future marketing boards we may wish.

We'll also be able to sell our processed food products in the US more easily.

Fishermen on both coasts within five years will have tariff free access to the U.S. market for virtually all fish products;

And the two governments have agreed to reduce barriers for trade in wine and distilled spirits. You'll be able to buy California wines at competitive prices.

For clarification, I should add a note here that the brewing industry is not covered in the agreement.

Spokesmen for the agricultural industry have been saying some positive things. Paul Sim, who is the Senior Policy Analyst for the Canadian Wheat Growers summed it up like this: