

ONTARIO

Canada's new Free Trade Agreement with the United States assures Ontario of even greater economic growth and prosperity. Every major sector of the province's economy stands to gain. There will be both more jobs and lower consumer prices for Ontarians as a result of this Agreement.

Ontario's industrial base will be more secure and opportunities for expansion will be created, waiting for the people of the province to seize and develop. Their prosperity will be less subject to ill-founded and one-sided trade actions wielded by American competitors. Instead, Ontarians will be guaranteed fairer access to the world's largest market.

Considering that 90 percent of Ontario's exports are destined for the U.S. and that the U.S. provides 83 percent of Ontario's imports, the worth of the Agreement is easily apparent.

KEY BENEFITS

Key provisions of the Agreement for Ontario are the progressive elimination of tariffs, the innovative code on trade in services and the establishment of a binding dispute settlement mechanism.

Tariff reductions will increase the scope for further processing of resource-based products in the province where previously these products faced high U.S. tariffs. The Agreement will lower the cost of imports of a whole range of products to be used as inputs to final products. The Agreement also means lower prices, more variety and selection for consumers.

The creation of a binding, binational dispute settlement mechanism ensures better management of our trading relationship as a whole and, as it applies to anti-dumping and countervailing duties, begins the process of joint oversight of our laws dealing with unfair trade practices. Over the next five years, the two countries will negotiate a substitute system of anti-dumping and countervail laws in both countries that will further increase our security of access to the U.S. market. The Agreement, with respect to emergency import measures, will ensure that means are in place to deal with serious injury to Ontario producers, while at the same time securing Canadian exports against U.S. safeguard actions not directed at Canada.

All of this can only provide greater security of access to the U.S. market for Canadian exporters. That is precisely what the Government set out to achieve.