

Our own analysis on individual sectors will of course cover all the relevant aspects of the Canadian industry including investment performance and ownership, and, most importantly, competitiveness of Canadian operations internationally and within North America.

We want to determine whether the benefits to be gained through greater specialization, hence improved productivity, will offset the risks involved in reducing Canadian import barriers.

We will also seek the views of the producers themselves on whether they can compete in a free trade situation with the United States. I want to stress this point. Government will consult fully with the industry and the Provinces before deciding whether to pursue a particular sectoral arrangement. No decision to seek negotiations will be taken until after the domestic consultative process is complete. This is an integral and vital part of the process.

I am convinced above all that we cannot stand still. We must explore new alternatives to preserve and expand our market access. Our economic wellbeing depends on our trade performance more than many Canadians realize. If we were not examining new forms of trade liberalization there would be ample ground for criticism.