

ON OZONE DEPLETION...***What about the issue of ozone depletion?***

-- The NAFTA is unlikely to add to the global consumption of ozone-depleting chemicals, such as the well-known chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

-- All three NAFTA countries are signatories to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. This multilateral agreement restricts the amount of ozone-damaging chemicals that any NAFTA country can consume.

-- Canada is committed to a complete ban on the use of CFCs by 1995. Progress has already been made. In June 1991, Canada's consumption of CFCs was 45 per cent less than it was five years earlier.

-- Mexico, as a developing country, is entitled to a 10-year deferral under the Montreal Protocol. However, it has stated its intention to follow the schedule for developed countries with complete phase-out of damaging chemicals by the year 2000.