

Mexico has prompted "specialization across and within Canadian businesses." With "increased specialization," Globerman argues, "comes increased productivity."

Over the years, Canadians have proved that they can work with diverse cultures and excel in foreign markets. By producing for markets that are "very different from ours," Professor Kirton believes that Canadians gain a "strengthened sensitivity to, and respect for, other cultures." In the words of Professor Isaiah Litvak, Professor of International Business at York University, free trade agreements such as the NAFTA "encourage valuable cultural exchanges - such as in the performing arts - as well as international academic exchanges."

Communities across Canada have also experienced the benefits of the NAFTA. Diane Richler, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Association for Community Living in Toronto, believes that "by improving trade and economic relations between governments, [the] NAFTA has opened the door to talk about other issues of concern throughout North America. For people who have a disability and for civil society organizations which represent them, this has provided opportunities to build inclusive communities, improve democratic representation in the region and promote the recognition of human rights." The NAFTA has created opportunities for community members to discuss practical and effective long-term strategies to improve the quality of life across North America.

