

Cannot afford not to

Canada West Foundation (David Elton, President, and research associate Katie Macmillan) suggested two reasons for seeking a Canada-U.S. enhanced trade agreement: Canada "can't afford not to", and the "faith in Canadians" rationale. Rejection of this approach would mean continued economic decline due to U.S. countervailing action, declining leverage multilaterally, and declining competitiveness. An enhanced trade agreement would force Canada to come to grips with structural problems.

Those who don't have faith that Canada can win in such an agreement demonstrate "victory of fear over reason".

Secure access to larger markets is a necessary precondition of competitiveness, just as preventing athletes from competing internationally is a surefire recipe for defeat at the Olympics, said Mr. Elton.

Sector approach

Canadian Cattlemen's Association (Stan Wilson, Vice-President) favoured a sector-by-sector approach to free trade "for it permits industries like our own...to move forward without waiting upon a national consensus on a wider scale".

"Unhesitatingly in support of free trade in the entire beef sector," the Association had no concern that domestic packing industries could not compete.

Mr. Wilson said that when beef trade is restricted as it is now -- with quotas, tariffs and duties -- it ensures live exports will increase, whereas value-added activities create jobs.