

Myth #6

- Atlantic Canadians cannot compete, John Turner said in August.
"Sheer market forces could mean cutting Atlantic Canada adrift. The market forces inherent in the [Free Trade Agreement] would be to the detriment of Atlantic Canada."

Facts

- Producers in Atlantic Canada face international market forces every day. They make a valuable contribution to Canada's economy by competing successfully in international markets for goods like fish products, minerals, forest products and petroleum products.
- Exports from Atlantic Canada totalled more than \$6.7 billion in 1987, accounting for more than 23% of GDP. For Canada, total exports account for just over 24% of GDP. That's how we shape up in meeting international market forces.
- Because of what we produce, we face international market forces now. What the Free Trade Agreement will do is give increased opportunities to export into the U.S. market. That now accounts for 68% of all exports from Atlantic Canada.
- Here's what Vic Young had to say,
"[T]he very ethos of Free Trade is the economic improvement it will bring to Canadians, as long as we have the confidence to compete with the world and especially with industry in the U.S. In our view, we should have such confidence, and we should also have the good common sense not to ignore protectionist attitudes in the U.S. ... The free trade deal is for the long-term benefit of Canadians ..."

Myth #7

- John Turner said on August 18 that Atlantic fish processing jobs are threatened by the Free Trade Agreement.

Facts

- Article 1203 of the Agreement specifically excludes controls on the export of unprocessed fish by Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec. These controls cannot be challenged under the Free Trade Agreement.