

control, and improve west coast fisheries management. It will also secure the livelihood of the western coastal communities.

Adjustment

The trade agreement provides several features which will assist Canadian industry to adjust and withstand competitive pressures. The agreement is phased in over a ten-year period with the more vulnerable sectors having larger adjustment periods.

Particularly sensitive industries or policies have been largely excluded from the FTA. These include agricultural supply managed products, all cultural industries, and transportation services.

At the November 25, 1987 First Ministers' Conference, the Prime Minister announced the creation of an Advisory Council on Adjustment. The Council will be chaired by Jean de Grandpré. The Council will identify specific adjustment issues or circumstances arising from the FTA and make appropriate recommendations. The Council will also assist the federal government in ensuring that Canadians take full advantage of the new opportunities arising from the trade agreement.

In addition, both the federal and provincial governments will be reviewing the current array of labour adjustment and assistance programs to determine if additional funds or program changes are warranted. These labour programs currently provide assistance for mobility, education, training and special initiatives to assist workers to locate new employment. A wide range of industry and agriculture programs are available and both the B.C. and federal governments have been reviewing these programs and tax systems with a view to ensuring that labour can adapt to the increasingly competitive world circumstances.

Where workers require adjustment assistance they will receive it through the range of ongoing programs available.

General

Of fundamental importance, the agreement respects Canada's political independence and cultural sovereignty, our system of social programs and our regional policies. This agreement will not place any new inhibitions on government subsidies to business or our capacity to assist regional development.