

The new rules mean that there will be no discriminatory restrictions against Canadian firms competing in the U.S. market in those areas.

That includes going into the U.S. for business purposes.

The manager of one Canadian firm said: "We'd try to send a man down there to do repairs on our equipment and we had problems at the border. They hassled our people: they delayed entry: they even confiscated tools. I think free trade would be a good thing."

Right now, says the Vice President of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, "If a C.A. is asked to go to New York for a client, he is asked why -- whether his purpose is professionally motivated and if he's going to displace an American.....It's an irritation that we'll be happy to see removed."

That's important to a lot more Canadians than most people think...because 75 per cent of our jobs are in the service sector.

We've broken new ground in setting up a framework of rules for trade in services. It's unprecedented in the history of trade relations, and we feel that it can serve as an example to the rest of the world.

There's another area not many people think about.

Many of us were brought up with the notion that if you talked about foreign investment, you were talking about investments by others in our country.

Today's generation of Canadians understands that foreign investment can mean investment by Canadian firms in foreign markets.

Canada's economy has matured to the point that we have become exporters of capital -- like the Japanese, the Germans, the French and the Americans.

The agreement allows us to protect the interests of Canadian investors in the United States -- but we have kept the right to review significant non-Canadian investment in Canada.

The agreement also opens up another area of U.S. business to Canadian firms.