



News Release

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CANADA-U.S. TRADE COMMISSION MEETS IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael H. Wilson, and U.S. Trade Representative Carla A. Hills said today that implementation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) continues to proceed smoothly as the Agreement moves towards the end of its third year.

Mr. Wilson and Ambassador Hills met today in Seattle, Washington, for the fifth meeting of the Canada-U.S. Trade Commission, which reviews the progress and overall management of the FTA.

"We are very pleased with the progress made since the Commission met nearly a year ago," Mr. Wilson said. "Businesses, industries and associations continue to take increasing advantage of the opportunities presented by the FTA."

"We have accomplished a great deal in the last two and a half years and we will work hard to ensure the continued success of the FTA," Ambassador Hills said.

Trade in goods and services between the two countries reached C\$203 billion in 1990, up from C\$197 billion in 1989 and from C\$191 billion in 1988.

Mr. Wilson and Ambassador Hills noted progress in a number of areas since the last Commission meeting on October 11, 1990:

- The second round of accelerated tariff reductions is now in force. This means that since the Agreement entered into force, the two countries, at the request of the private sector, have agreed to more rapid elimination of duties on products valued at more than C\$8 billion.