

Responses to Public Consultations on Canada - Central America Free Trade Negotiations

January - February 2001

Volume II

Réponses aux consultations publiques en vue des négociations de libre-échange Canada - Amérique centrale

janvier - février 2001

4	Mr. Alberto Anaya	18 Jan. 2001		For	<i>(General)</i> - Believes there is a great potential for Canada.
5	Mr. Regis Batista-Lemaire Vancouver BC	12 Jan. 2001	Canadian citizen	For, with concerns	<i>(General, SMEs, Image branding, trade promotion)</i> - Presence of Canadian products in CentAm almost non-existent compared to other industrialized countries' products. - SMEs are vital to Canada's global economic prospects. - Success in exports rely on SMEs' perceptions about potential markets. - His study on SMEs' perspectives identified these barriers: attitudes toward/lack of knowledge of countries, negative attitude toward GoC agencies, low perception of reliability of info available. Therefore, must increase general level of awareness, provide concise/useful info considered critical by SME managers.
6	Mr. Eric Squire Teacher CEGEP Montmorency Laval QC	03 Feb. 2001	Canadian citizen	N/A	<i>(Consultations, transparency, social, human rights and environmental concerns)</i> - Does not find the consultation process in its present form to be a fair way of assessing public opinion. - Consultations tilted in favour of broad liberalisation. - An FTA must be built upon a framework of social, human rights, and environmental concerns and then fit in trade liberalisation where this contributes constructively to these concerns.
7	Mr. Michael DesRoches Montreal QC	21 Jan. 2001	Canadian citizen	N/A	<i>(Labour issues, environmental issues)</i> - Trade liberalization in Central America may contribute to the expansion of Canadian business but the effect of FTAs on small countries can be devastating. - NAFTA has contributed to near slave labour conditions in Mexico and has had negative effects on its people and the environment. - Canada should not enter into an agreement that does not protect workers rights, human rights, the environment and wages.