



News Release

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MINISTER WILSON RELEASES 1993 REGISTER OF U.S. BARRIERS TO TRADE

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, today released the second annual *Register of U.S. Barriers to Trade*.

The Register is an illustrative list of barriers to the free flow of goods, services and investment into the United States. Examples of these barriers are found in U.S. subsidy practices, unilateral trade remedy legislation, government procurement and domestic preference laws, customs and administrative procedures, and technical and regulatory practices.

Minister Wilson said that Canada has been successful in eliminating several of the barriers contained in the 1992 Register through bilateral negotiations under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA). For example, two barriers in the technical and regulatory section of last year's edition have been removed to reflect the successful negotiation of bilateral agreements on meat inspection and potatoes.

"Canada and the United States are each other's largest and most important trading partners, with two-way trade exceeding \$220 billion in 1992," the Minister said. "The FTA has succeeded in reducing or eliminating many barriers to trade on both sides of the border."

The Minister emphasized that, while Canada remains concerned about the range of U.S. barriers, they affect a relatively small portion of a very large and mutually beneficial trading relationship.

Once implemented on January 1, 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will further improve Canadian access to the U.S. market while effectively extending the FTA to include Mexico.

"The NAFTA includes improvements to the FTA -- especially through clearer rules of origin, improved dispute-settlement procedures, and tighter discipline on border restrictions against Canadian imports. A successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations will go a long way to help eliminate a number of the remaining barriers."

The Register also lists specific Canadian dispute-settlement actions taken under the FTA and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in response to U.S. trade barriers.

The Minister is once again asking business leaders, academics, labour leaders and the provinces to let him know of additional barriers that they have encountered with the United States. Correspondence should be addressed to:

The United States Trade and Economic Policy Division (UEE)
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
Lester B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

A copy of the Register may be obtained by contacting Info Export at 1-800-267-8376 (toll-free), or in the Ottawa area at 944-4000. The fax number is (613) 996-9709.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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