

THE FUTURE OF FREE TRADE IN THE AMERICAN CONTINENT: THE CANADIAN POLICY

ABSTRACT

Since Canada obtained full sovereignty and specially since the end of the Second World War, Canada has been an advocate for free trade and multilateralism. Canada has sustained an open trade policy that allows a highly competitive economy. To guarantee a stable and perduring access to the U.S. market, its most important trading partner, Canada signed in 1989 a bilateral agreement with that country. Similarly, in 1993, Canada subscribed a trilateral agreement with Mexico and the United States in order to expand the free trade area to all of North America. Both treaties have been successful. Exports of Canadian goods and services to the other two countries have increased, as have Canadian investments in third countries as well as in the other two members of the agreement. Canada seeks to extend plurilateralism and free trade to all countries of the “three Americas” to continue with its economic growth and gain access to new markets.