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Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

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Letter from Canada to the FTAA Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) Co-Chairs

September 1, 2005

Ambassador Peter F. Allgeier
Co-Chairman
FTAA Trade Negotiations
Committee

Ambassador Adhemar G. Bahadian
Co-Chairman
FTAA Trade Negotiations
Committee

Dear Ambassador Allgeier and Ambassador Bahadian,

I am writing to express Canada's ongoing strong support for the resumption and conclusion of negotiations towards the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Since the suspension of the February 2004 Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) meeting, Canada has been supportive of the Co-chairs' efforts to resolve outstanding issues regarding the implementation of the new negotiating structure arising from the Miami Ministerial with a view to setting the stage for the resumption of negotiations. In this regard, we believe that it is now highly desirable for the Co-Chairs to convene a meeting of all FTAA participants, at the Vice-Ministerial level, by mid-October 2005.

Such a meeting will be important, inter alia, to develop appropriate language on the FTAA for the November 4-5 Summit of the Americas in Argentina. It is also critical in terms of securing funding for the continued operation of the Administrative Secretariat beyond December 2005. As you are aware, these issues were discussed at the August 25, 2005 informal meeting convened by the Government of Mexico to discuss issues related to the Administrative Secretariat, where the majority of delegations, including Canada, expressed their full support for the early resumption of the FTAA negotiations and for the Co-chairs to call a meeting of all delegations before November 2005.


In Canada's view, the FTAA remains an integral element of the broader Summit of the Americas process and a vital instrument for promoting, inter alia, economic growth and job creation.

Please be assured of Canada's continued support for your efforts as Co-Chairs of the FTAA process to move forward the negotiations to which leaders of the hemisphere have repeatedly expressed their commitment. We hope you will give our request for an early meeting of all FTAA participants favourable consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Elaine Feldman
Chief Negotiator for Canada,
FTAA

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