



THOMAS MULCAIR
DÉPUTÉ, MP, OUTREMONT

June 29, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you with urgency to request that the government inform Canadians about its priorities for protecting Canadian jobs during the upcoming NAFTA negotiations, slated to begin as early as this August.

With less than two months remaining in the required 90-day notice to Congress, you have yet to announce a credible strategy to stand up to the US government, protect Canadian jobs, and protect market access for our many deeply integrated sectors.

Your government's attempts to appease the Trump administration are clearly not working, as evidenced by the recent imposition of catastrophic tariffs against our softwood lumber producers, and inflammatory rhetoric against our supply management and energy sectors.

Due to these dangerous developments, and with upcoming negotiations around the corner, we are writing to request your response to the following critical priorities that must be defended firmly and steadfastly to protect Canadian jobs.

- Despite professing support for our **supply management system**, your government has severely undermined the system during CETA and TPP negotiations and has used the advice of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who has openly called for ending supply management in Canada. Will you commit to not granting any more concessions that will undermine our supply management system, and how will you protect the system?
- Canada is the most sued country under NAFTA's **Chapter 11 investor-state dispute settlement** provisions that allow companies to sue governments. This has eroded Canada's sovereignty, and cost hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars in settlements, payouts, and legal fees. Canadian governments should be the final arbiters of what's necessary to protect both health and the environment, not anonymous international panels. Will you remove ISDS provisions from NAFTA?
- NAFTA's **energy proportionality** provisions prohibit Canada from reducing oil and gas exports to the US, even if we experience shortages, reduce domestic output to meet greenhouse gas reduction obligations, or prioritize domestic value-added production. With non-renewable natural resources declining and climate change posing an urgent threat, will the government pull out of these regressive provisions?

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- At least 400,000 **manufacturing jobs** have been lost in the past decade, and that number is expected to rise. How will your government protect and promote manufacturing jobs during negotiations, and defend market access for manufacturers?
- NAFTA's side agreements on **labour and environmental standards** are weak, unenforceable, and have created incentives for corporations to relocate production to Mexico and certain US states in order to exploit weaker rules. Will the government make significant improvements to enhance the enforceability of labour and environmental standards?
- With drug prices in Canada already the second-highest in the world, the government must resist further **patent extensions** that will cause drug prices to rise even further, ensure NAFTA will not impede the creation of a Pharmacare program in Canada, and ensure that the intellectual property regime under NAFTA is fair to small businesses and entrepreneurs. What is your plan with respect to intellectual property under NAFTA?

Canadians deserve to have clear, concrete answers to the above questions, and deserve to know exactly how the government is planning to protect Canadian jobs in advance of negotiations. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Thomas Mulcair, MP (Outremont)
Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada



Tracey Ramsey, MP (Essex)
Trade Critic, New Democratic Party of Canada