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Canada and the United States are two of the largest trading partners in the world. Goods and services in all forms flow in both directions, and the flow of agricultural, food, fibre and beverage products is large. Recent trade agreements between or involving both nations have reduced most trade barriers.

But significant policy and trade tensions remain in selected areas of the agricultural and food industry. Grain disputes surfaced in the early 1990s and remain an issue. Policies, programs and trade relations in the dairy sector have been an ongoing source of stress for more than a decade. They have produced more than one application of formal dispute settlement mechanisms that were created within bilateral and multilateral agreements. During 1996, one of these dispute settlement panels addressed a challenge by the United States that Canada's high dairy and poultry import tariffs contravened the CUSTA.

This publication reports a set of papers written and commented on by academic economists, industry representatives, and government officials related to policy and trade stress between Canada and the United States. The purpose of this publication is to reduce policy and trade tension through conduct of balanced, objective analysis and dissemination of timely, accurate information.

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