

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA and THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA, resolved to:

STRENGTHEN the special bonds of friendship and cooperation among their peoples;

CONTRIBUTE to the harmonious development and expansion of world and regional trade and provide a catalyst to broader international cooperation;

CREATE new employment opportunities and improve working conditions and living standards in their respective territories;

RECOGNIZE the differences in the level of development and the size of the Parties' economies and create opportunities for economic development;

CREATE an expanded and secure market for the goods and services produced in their territories;

REDUCE distortions to trade;

ESTABLISH clear and mutually advantageous rules governing their trade;

ENSURE a predictable commercial framework for business planning and investment;

RECOGNIZE the importance of trade facilitation in promoting efficient and transparent procedures to reduce costs, and to ensure predictability, for importers and exporters of the Parties;

BUILD on their respective rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement and other multilateral and bilateral instruments of cooperation;

PROMOTE regional integration with an instrument that will contribute to the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA);

ENHANCE the competitiveness of their firms in global markets;

ENSURE that the benefits of trade liberalization are not undermined by anticompetitive activities;

PROMOTE sustainable development;

UNDERTAKE each of the preceding in a manner consistent with environmental protection and conservation;

PRESERVE their flexibility to safeguard the public welfare;

RECOGNIZE that States have the ability to preserve, develop and implement their cultural policies for the purpose of strengthening cultural diversity; and

RECOGNIZE the increased cooperation between our countries on labour and environmental cooperation;

HAVE AGREED as follows: