

# NAFTA

## THE TRUTH ABOUT FREE TRADE

**"We've signed a stunning new trade pact with Canada. The Canadians don't understand what they've signed. In twenty years, they will be sucked into the U.S. economy."**

Clayton Yeutter, US trade representative October 3, 1987, the day the Free Trade Agreement was signed

"Yeutter was telling the truth! But our political leaders have never told us the truth. They still pretend that the two fatal agreements are about trade. They still won't admit that the two agreements are licenses to buy Canada lock, stock and barrel..."

### The "National Treatment" Clause.

The most under-discussed 'clause' means that foreign investors have the unrestricted right to invest in Canada: (a) without conditions and (b) without limits. We have lost the right to say that only foreign investment that is beneficial to Canada is welcome.

Most Canadians, probably 98 percent, have never heard of the "national treatment" clause which is the one that guarantees our demise as a nation state.

When the FTA was signed, **national treatment was a relatively new concept in international law that gave American investors equal rights in Canada as Canadian citizens...**

**NAFTA - Worse than the FTA.**

NAFTA is worse than the FTA because **Chapter 11, the dispute settlement clause, allows U.S. and Mexican investors the right to sue us if any of our governments, federal, provincial or municipal, passes or amends a law that affects their profits or future profits...** What kind of a democracy do we have when a foreign corporation can tell the parliament of Canada what laws it can or cannot pass?!"

### Now or Never

Since the FTA was signed, over 13,000 Canadian companies have been sold to foreigners - about 10,000 to Americans. These include the forest giant MacMillan Bloedel, Le Groupe Forex, Club Monaco, Tim Hortons, Laura Secord, Stelco, Alcan and the list goes on.

**Over 50% of 35 Canadian industries are now owned by foreigners!!!**

# TILMA

**Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement  
Connie Fogal - Leader Canadian Action Party**

This **TILMA** agreement was entered without Legislative oversight from either province, and without informed debate among the municipalities or, most importantly, the citizens. Such procedure is unacceptable since this agreement is of such far reaching impact as to make it impossible for you (or the provincial government) to make meaningful decisions to protect or promote the interest of all your constituents, and hence renders your existence and our electoral system irrelevant at the municipal as well as the provincial level.

**TILMA** is a super investment agreement of greater scope than the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in that it allows no government obstacles (Article 3) that would impair or restrict trade, or investment, or labour mobility between the Parties. In addition to the provinces, it covers municipalities, Crown corporations, school boards, universities, and private agencies on contract with government.

This means you will not be able to regulate on any matter as all regulations can be seen as in some way affecting investment leaving your municipality subject to the maximum penalty of \$5 million for each investor who chooses to sue you even on the same issue over and over again.

Such matters as efforts to conserve heritage sites, promote small business or neighborhood development, or bans on municipal billboards, rules about density, scenic views, building height limitations, tree bylaws, or any issues re quality of neighborhood life will be impacted.

In essence, this agreement erases provincial borders as all standards and regulations are to be reconciled. The agreement is open for other provinces to join. Todd Hirsch of the Canada West Foundation on July 15, 2006 said, "Within **TILMA** are the seeds of a true economic union, an erasing of the provincial boundary for all purposes except voting and the color of the plates."

What **TILMA** does is force governments at both the provincial and local levels to surrender vast areas of their ability to govern. The agreement is essentially a long list of things governments will be prohibited from doing, regardless of whether they are acting completely within their jurisdiction. Even if a majority of citizens in a province are demanding a new government initiative, the government will be blocked from acting if the initiative would conflict with **TILMA**.

TILMA enables private investors to challenge governments, allowing commercial interests to trump the public good.

#### **What the Government says on TILMA**

#### **Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement**

Alberta and British Columbia signed the TILMA agreement on April 28, 2006, to remove barriers to trade, investment and labour mobility between the two provinces. The agreement creates the second-largest economic region in Canada. Now it seems that Ontario and perhaps Quebec want in on the deal too!

The agreement builds upon the prosperity in both provinces by giving businesses seamless access to a larger range of opportunities in all areas, including:

Energy; Transportation; Agriculture; and Investment

The **TILMA** agreement focuses on two key goals:

- no obstacles: governments measures will not restrict or impair trade, investment or labour mobility between the two provinces.
- non-discrimination: there will be no preferential treatment of a province's people, investments and goods, except for justified actual cost-of-service differences.

TILMA requires the governments of Alberta and British Columbia to:

- mutually recognize or reconcile existing standards and regulations that restrict or impair trade, investment or labour mobility
- not establish new standards or regulations that could restrict or impair trade, investment or labour mobility
- reduce differences in standards or regulations that achieve legitimate objectives
- notify each other of measures that may affect interprovincial trade, investment and labour mobility

[http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/canadian\\_intergovernmental\\_relations/documents/AB-BC\\_MOU-TILMA\\_Agreement-Apr06.pdf](http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/canadian_intergovernmental_relations/documents/AB-BC_MOU-TILMA_Agreement-Apr06.pdf)

<http://www.tilma.ca>

## **Join Us & Abrogate NAFTA & TILMA**

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**In the last 14 years we have experienced FTA, NAFTA, TILMA, the Security and Prosperity Partnership and now the North American Union.**