

**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: