

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): Free Trade Agreements Between Canada and the United States

Free trade agreements (FTAs) are international policy instruments intended to promote international integration and economic growth by reducing barriers to trade and investment.¹ The number of FTAs in force globally has proliferated in recent decades, rising from 22 bi-lateral and regional FTAs in the early 1990s to over 270 by February 2016². Unlike earlier attempts at co-ordinating trade and investment policy, this ‘current generation’ of FTAs mandates changes to a range of policies that are seen as barriers to trade and investment but are not solely applicable to foreign economic transactions, such as intellectual property rights and public procurement rules.

The United States (US) and Canada were at the forefront of this paradigm when they entered the first ‘current generation’ FTA, the Canada–US Free Trade Agreement (CUSFTA) in 1989.³ The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) later came into force on 1 January 1994. NAFTA superseded the earlier agreement between Canada and the US, CUSFTA. As a consequence, Canada-US trade policy was not a principal focus of NAFTA as it was already covered in CUSFTA. Instead, NAFTA primarily set out to eliminate barriers to trade and investment with Mexico, to establish new institutions for resolving disputes between foreign investors and domestic governments, and to address cross-border health and environmental issues.⁴ But the agreement included an import tax (‘tariff’) schedule for US imports to Canada that contained subtle changes compared with CUSFTA. The updated version lowered tariffs on food and beverage preparations made from high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS), requiring that the 5% import tariff be removed by 1% per year, 1994-1998.⁵⁻⁷

At the time, NAFTA was the most comprehensive FTA ever negotiated and contained several ground-breaking provisions that served as a blueprint for later trade deals.^{8,9} NAFTA ushered in a new generation of FTAs. Today, Canada and the US remain vanguards of the current FTA paradigm. This includes three high-profile FTAs, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) between the Canada, the US and 10 Latin American and Pacific Rim countries, signed in February 2016; the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the EU (CETA), signed in October 2016; and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the US and the EU (TTIP), currently under negotiation.^{10,11}

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Appendix to: Barlow P, McKee M, Basu S, et al. Impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement on high-fructose corn syrup supply in Canada: a natural experiment using synthetic control methods. *CMAJ* 2017. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.161152. Copyright © 2017 Joule Inc. or its licensors

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