Module 6, Lesson 2

Share and share alike

**Supplement**

**NAFTA objectives**

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) came into effect on January 1,

1994. This agreement created the world’s largest free trade area. Among the agreement’s main objectives are the liberalization of trade between Canada, Mexico, and the United States; stimulation of economic growth in all three countries; and equal access to each other’s markets.

**Article 101. Establishment of the Free Trade Area**

The Parties to this Agreement, consistent with Article XXIV of the General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, hereby establish a free trade area.

**Article 102. Objectives**

1. The objectives of this Agreement, as elaborated more specifically through its principles and rules, including national treatment, most-favored-nation treatment and transparency, are to:

a. eliminate barriers to trade in, and facilitate the cross-border movement of, goods and services between the territories of the Parties;

b. promote conditions of fair competition in the free trade area;

c. increase substantially investment opportunities in the territories of the Parties;

d. provide adequate and effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in each Party’s territory;

e. create effective procedures for the implementation and application of this Agreement, for its joint administration and the resolution of disputes; and

f. establish a framework for further trilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation to expand and enhance the benefits of this Agreement.

2. The Parties shall interpret and apply the provisions of this Agreement in the light of its objectives set out in paragraph 1 and in accordance with applicable rules of international law.

From the North American Free Trade Agreement between the Government of

Canada, the Government of the United Mexican States, and the Government of the

United States of America, published January 1, 1994.