



My Photo Story Entry :

By Aanya Mridul (aged 12)

My illustration is a comparison of imagination and reality. I imagined that agricultural products, clothing, and industrial material would be the top exports of Canada. I was, in fact, mistaken. This led me to probe deeper. I found that according to World's Top Exports (World'sTopExports.com), Canada's main exports are petroleum products, automotive products, computers and their parts. You may wonder why I am telling you this seemingly useless bit of information? Well, it all has to do with going local. Canada has enough resources to keep for themselves and export all over the world! With proper research and development strategies, these abundant resources can be better utilized and through innovative expansion of their applications, new local businesses can be developed to rejuvenate our economy, thus positively affecting Canada!

Going local in the new decade doesn't have to be difficult, or expensive if we are conscious of what we need. It is merely impulse that causes people to import lavish items, such as marble, vicuña, silk, and gold. Do we **need** these things, or is our society more materialistic than ever before? I think we should buy more locally sourced things, especially in the years to come. Buying locally has many other benefits. One such benefit is quality control. If I bought a pair of shoes online, they could be worse than they are portrayed on their webpage.

Imagine if I walked into a local shoe store and bought a pair of shoes. They would be the right size, colour, brand, quality and price for me because I would be able to see them **before** I bought them. Quality helps stop items from ending up in landfills! My shoes bought online would be liable to break first, due to lack of inspection. I would have to dispose of them! Buying locally helps our economy **and** our environment! After writing about this topic and researching it further, I know I can buy more from small businesses, and help my community become more local.