

First, how might we best ensure the liberalization of trade, and expand the coverage of trade rules, so as to promote the international transfer of technology?

Second, how might we best secure and expand our access to US markets?

Third, what national measures best promote the international competitiveness of Canadian firms engaged in the development and transfer of technology?

Fourth, and most challenging for lawyers perhaps, given the proliferation of declarations, non-binding codes, multilaterally upon agreed policy commitments, and the like, what is the legal status and effect of such pronouncements? Is the line between law and policy a clear one?

Answers can only come through expanded collaboration between business and government on the one hand, and between federal and provincial trade ministers on the other. Today's program is an important opportunity to extend communication between the private sector and government. I invite you to join in this dialogue, and to stay involved, as we choose new directions in the development of our trade policy in this most challenging international environment.