

Such systems must provide mechanisms for identifying and resolving problems and anticipating the need for change. The proposed changes to section 91A are intended to create collaborative systems in which all governments can agree to changes and reconciliation of policy differences. Creation of an efficient and formal way of implementing changes to the economic union is equally essential to the establishment of an effective internal market.

Under the existing provisions of the Constitution, progress on eliminating internal trade barriers has been incremental, to say the least. We've made some progress in the last four years since an inter-governmental task force set to work on the issue.

In the last few weeks, two significant steps have been taken. The Prime Minister announced that he had signed the Inter-governmental Agreement on Government Procurement. The federal, provincial and territorial governments have agreed that all contracts for goods purchased by government departments valued at over \$25,000 will be open to all bidders, subject to limited exemptions for economic development.

The agreement includes provision for a dispute-settlement process and annual reporting by governments. It is not the end result we want, but it is a good beginning. While it includes purchases of goods, construction and services are not yet included, even though they account for a very significant proportion of overall public-sector procurement. Still we estimate that it covers some \$6 billion of government procurement.

Then last Thursday, I met with my provincial counterparts in Moncton. We have agreed to meet every six months to deal with barriers to internal trade more expeditiously. We will be working hard to include services and construction in the inter-governmental procurement agreement, as soon as possible. Furthermore, I will be pressing my colleagues to extend the agreement to include Crown corporations and the so-called "MUSH" sector -- municipalities, universities, schools and hospital services.

We have also agreed to research the policies and practices which create barriers to internal trade and bring these forward for action starting in May 1992. The first step in eliminating these barriers has to be to expose them to the light of day. If we do so and demonstrate our commitment to eliminate them, Canadians will respond.

In the meantime, Canadians want to know why they can't buy beer made in New Brunswick here in Toronto, when it is among the best-selling imports in all 50 American states. They think it is unacceptable that they can't use bricks made in one province on construction sites in another. They think it is inefficient that