

The principle of fairness is reflected in the core obligations of transparency and fair and equitable treatment contained in most trade agreements.

- **Transparency** obligations call upon governments to make information about domestic laws, regulations, programs and administrative procedures readily available to foreign businesses.
- **The fair and equitable treatment** requirement arises in the investment area and relates to providing foreign investors with internationally accepted, minimum standards of protection and due process.

Best Practices

The way in which Canadian municipalities treat businesses in their communities is typically in keeping with these basic principles.

Thus, while municipalities will wish to consider international trade obligations in specific cases, the chance of a trade issue arising is greatly minimized if municipal programs and regulatory practices are non-discriminatory, fair and transparent.

