

“Over the past year and a half our staff has gone from 203 to 261 and we are hiring even more people to handle American orders. Much of this increased business and growth in personnel is due to NAFTA, which has made the U.S. market more accessible and has positioned us to compete more effectively there.”

Jean-Marc Rioux,
Union Secretary,
ABB Canada,
Varenes, Quebec

Canada participates actively at the WTO to ensure that the international trading regime keeps pace with changes in the world economy. But the currents of globalization intersect on many fronts. Peace and security, the environment, international development, and culture are all reminders both of the pervasiveness of globalization and of the benefits that await us if we co-operate effectively on the international stage.

The overriding objective of the WTO is to help trade flow smoothly, freely, fairly, and predictably. Canada supports this objective and will continue to participate at the WTO to develop a stronger and more prosperous multilateral trading system. The Government agrees with the Committee that “since its inception, the multilateral system has worked well for Canada”. Indeed, the WTO rules-based system is of critical importance to Canada’s trade interests. The Government agrees with recommendation 43 and will work to ensure that our regional trade agreements continue to be compatible with WTO provisions. Canada will continue to work towards ensuring that the WTO develops as a strong, open, credible, and rules-based institution, capable of overseeing the operation of the world trading system.

New negotiations are needed to ensure that the multilateral trading system keeps pace with the evolving economic, technological, and social characteristics of the global marketplace. The Government concurs fully with the guidelines to advance and defend Canada’s interests that are set out in recommendation 5. Canada’s overall objective in future negotiations must be to improve the lives of Canadians by seeking assured access to global markets; by promoting appropriate, predictable, and enforceable rules to govern international