

In conclusion, this Paper argues that as long as our trading partners honour the 20 year norm, it is not in Canada's interest to deviate from the international standard. Deviations from that norm run the risk of being exploited by individual countries and would complicate the multilateral trade environment, unless a consensus could be carefully constructed in advance on the merits of variable patent terms depending on the industry concerned, including both the issues of patent length and scope. Therefore, from the trade policy perspective, this paper concludes that: (a) *the patent term in Canada has to be in line with those of its major trading partners;* (b) *Canada should not seek any general extension of the patent term from its current level;* and (c) *any future extension of the patent term should be limited to those industries where the economics of R&D clearly call for such a change.* In this regard, further cost-benefit work across industries and countries is required.