

and internationally competitive, and will benefit from improved access to key markets.

*Further Tariff Liberalization*

Canada will continue to press for WTO members to accelerate the liberalization of tariffs beyond levels agreed in the Uruguay Round, in several sectors of importance to Canadian exporters. In this regard, Canadian priorities include the acceleration of tariff reductions within the existing agreement for the reciprocal elimination of tariffs to zero (zero-for-zero) on paper/paper products and the establishment of new zero-for-zero tariff elimination agreements in oilseeds/oilseed products, wood/wood products and non-ferrous metals.

*Agriculture*

Canada's objective is to enhance access to world markets for Canadian agri-food products. Through the WTO Committee on Agriculture, Canada seeks to ensure that access and other commitments negotiated in the Uruguay Round are fully implemented. During 1997, the committee will go beyond monitoring the implementation of access commitments to review the domestic support and export subsidy notifications submitted by members. WTO members will also start to analyze and exchange information as a basis for future negotiations starting in 1999 to continue the process of agricultural trade reform.

*Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)*

The WTO *Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade* defines the international rights and obligations of members with respect to the development and application of measures that affect trade. Such measures include mandatory technical regulations and voluntary standards and conformity assessment procedures that determine whether a product meets the requirements of a particular regulation or standard.

Canada will participate in the upcoming triennial review of the Agreement, which should focus on practical issues of interest to Canadian exporters such as the examination of conformity assessment and equivalency issues, with the aim of facilitating access to markets and lowering costs to producers and exporters.

*Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures*

The WTO *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures* imposes disciplines on the development, adoption and enforcement of sanitary and phytosanitary measures. These disciplines are designed to prevent the misuse of SPS measures as disguised barriers to trade. The WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures facilitates the enhancement of food safety and sanitary conditions internationally, promotes the harmonization and equivalence of SPS measures, and facilitates technical cooperation and consultations. The Agreement provides that the Committee shall review the operation and implementation of the Agreement three years after entry into force, i.e., in 1998.

*Rules of Origin*

The WTO *Agreement on Rules of Origin* has established a work program to develop a common set of non-preferential rules of origin that would have general application in determining the origin of traded goods. Canada's goal is to achieve harmonized, non-preferential rules of origin that provide greater certainty for the trading community, are trade neutral, and reflect the global nature of production and sourcing of goods and materials. Canada seeks to ensure that the three-year work program on rules of origin, as laid out in the WTO *Agreement on Rules of Origin*, is completed in a timely manner and results in rules that meet the WTO objectives of transparency, predictability and objectivity.

Canada also participates in the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin, which operates under the auspices of the World Customs Organization and is required to complete its technical work on developing proposals for harmonized rules of origin by July 1998.