

The Committee makes forty-five recommendations aimed at advancing Canada's trade agenda. Underlying the specific recommendations is an appreciation that Canadians understand the benefits of trade and wish to seize the opportunities it presents. The Committee's report recognizes that trade benefits all Canadians — teachers, business people, artists, and farmers. It recognizes that trade leads to improved employment, greater consumer choice, and lower prices. The report recognizes as well that the enhanced competitiveness and innovation that trade encourages today will enrich our children tomorrow.

The Committee suggests that Canada has interests to manage both from a commercial perspective and from a broader, "values-based" perspective. The Government agrees that trade is not only a matter of improved commercial efficiencies. Freer, rules-based trade can also help to protect the environment, promote peace and security, and improve social conditions. Since the creation of the modern multilateral trading system over fifty years ago, Canada has retained its ability to regulate in the public interest, and the Government will not relinquish that capacity. Canada's participation at the WTO is essential if we are to secure our future economic well-being and continue to promote the broader public interest.

In order to ensure that the multilateral trading system works in the interests of all Canadians, the Committee advises the Government to approach a new round of multilateral trade negotiations "with a long-term vision as well as specific objectives". The Government agrees and is currently developing an agenda for consideration at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle. Participation at Seattle and beyond will produce trade agreements that will improve export opportunities for Canadians, promote rules that will level the playing field, and help provide benefits to people from all walks of life and in all parts of the world. This House can be assured that the Government will not rest until it has negotiated an outcome that meets the aspirations of Canadians.