

2. Canada's Trade in Goods and Services

Improving Access for Trade in Goods

Canada is committed to ensuring that its goods producers have competitive terms of access to international markets through a variety of means, including both multilateral and bilateral trade agreements.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the forum through which Canada negotiates trade agreements multilaterally, and is the foundation of our country's trade policy. Currently, the WTO is in its ninth round of trade negotiations, known as the Doha Development Agenda. In these negotiations, Canada's priorities for market access improvements for goods include:

- eliminating or significantly reducing tariffs on goods of interest to Canadian exporters (which includes binding commitments on maximum tariffs that would be lower than the tariffs currently being applied)

- levelling the international playing field for agricultural goods and agri-food products through:
 - the elimination of export subsidies;
 - substantial reductions to, and tighter disciplines on, trade-distorting domestic support; and
 - significant market access improvements through reductions in the tariffs faced by Canadian agricultural and agri-food exports.
- attaining improved disciplines on subsidies and greater transparency and predictability in the use of trade remedies (e.g. anti-dumping measures) by our trading partners
- securing strong and binding rules on trade facilitation by building on existing WTO obligations on transparency and customs procedures

As a complement to the multilateral system, Canada is also pursuing improved market access for trade in goods on a bilateral basis, including through ongoing bilateral and regional free trade negotiations. Current negotiations taking place include:

Consultation and Outreach on Canada's Trade Agenda

Effective consultations with Canadians are essential to the development and implementation of all significant international trade policies and initiatives. This is why Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada has a long-standing framework for public consultations and outreach aimed at

engaging Canadians in the development of trade policies and initiatives. For example, the department manages a range of permanent and ad hoc consultative mechanisms to ensure that the views, priorities and interests of Canadians at large, other levels of government, industry,

non-governmental organizations and public interest groups are taken into account in the development of Canada's trade agenda. For further information, please visit www.international.gc.ca/tna-nac/consult-en.asp.