

States and Mexico as Foreign Legal Consultants (FLCs). Under the aegis of an annex to the services chapter of the NAFTA, a trilateral Committee on Foreign Legal Consultants is close to reaching an agreement on a proposed framework for rules to govern FLCs. At the invitation of the Canadian delegation, ably led by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, and with the active participation of a representative of the Canadian Bar Association, the Committee will next be meeting in Vancouver in the early fall to review draft joint recommendations. This surely heralds a new era in legal services. The legal profession has traditionally been a jurisdiction-specific profession, more so than others. However, with the birth of what we now know as the European Union with its revolutionary rules on professional mobility and the advent of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the borders between jurisdictions have gradually been eroded. Now the NAFTA Committee has taken this an essential step further: when the governments receive and implement the Committee's recommendations, Canadian lawyers will be able to go to Mexico City, for example, and, under their own firm name, or in association with Mexican lawyers or firms, provide legal services and advice with respect to Canadian law and international law, and the law of any other jurisdiction in which they are competent to practise. It is to the credit of the professional bodies involved that they have seized the opportunities offered by the NAFTA to put forward their recommendations.

In this context, you in the legal community should consider Canadian legal expertise as you would any one of the many excellent services that Canada exports. The CBA has already begun to do so. I salute its efforts and urge others to follow suit. In a series of ambitious projects, the CBA has undertaken to bring the Canadian legal experience to countries with a nascent independent bar. Thus, in Eastern Europe, in China and in South Africa, Canadian lawyers are providing guidance on continuing legal education and the establishment of governing bodies. As an example, since 1990, the CBA has provided legal internships in Canada for 75 lawyers and delivered in-country professional development seminars to 1400 participants in Eastern Europe alone. In collaboration with the National Judicial Institute and the Canadian Council of Judges, it also organized the training for the new Canadian Judges' Program and internships in Canada for 10 judges from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, following which Canadian judges conducted an evaluation of the court system in both countries. Now, focussing to a greater extent on the institutional aspects of legal practice, the CBA is launching a twinning project between bar associations in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, and the law societies of Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Alberta. I understand that attendance at the CBA Annual Meeting was part of the agenda for the eight bar association representatives. To those involved in this initiative, I say that you are at the