

Our primary objective is to secure access for Canadian goods and services around the world. To secure this access, we must broaden the GATT's scope to include agricultural trade, trade in services, and other modern trade realities. With over 8 billion dollars in agricultural trade, and over 20 billion dollars in services trade, Canada has important interests at stake.

We must also create new rules for trade-related intellectual property and develop tighter disciplines on subsidies and countervailing duties.

There is no point in negotiating a new set of rules that no one abides by. To remain credible, the GATT's rules must be respected.

That's why we have put forward a comprehensive proposal to reform the GATT's institutional structure and create a World Trade Organization with an effective dispute resolution mechanism.

In the coming weeks, I will be doing everything I can to ensure the continued success of the GATT world trading order.

Next week, I will host a quadrilateral trade ministers meeting in St. John's with my counterparts from Japan, the United States and the European Community. The Uruguay Round will be the top item on our agenda.

We will continue to use our membership in the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters to try to bring agricultural trade under GATT disciplines, to increase market access, and to eliminate export subsidies that are shutting Canadian exports out of our traditional markets.

Last month in Vancouver, I hosted a meeting of trade ministers from 12 Asian and Pacific countries to discuss our GATT objectives. We will meet again in Brussels to work towards a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

We believe that the future prosperity of Canadian exporters requires a successful outcome at the Uruguay Round. We have therefore been working hand-in-hand with you and your Association to ensure that Canada's negotiators are fully prepared for the difficult discussions that lie ahead.

Our efforts to consult are unprecedented. Never before have so many business and labour representatives been involved in the formulation of Canadian trade policy.

Many of you play important roles on the International Trade Advisory Committee ("ITAC") and the Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade ("SAGITS").