

Minister of Industry,
Science and Technology and
Minister for International Trade



Ministre de l'Industrie, des
Sciences et de la Technologie et
ministre du Commerce extérieur

News Release

Communiqué

No. 62

March 31, 1992

CANADA RESPONDS TO GATT PANEL REPORT ON BEER

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, announced today that the federal and provincial governments have agreed to an approach to respond to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) panel report on provincial beer marketing practices.

As part of this approach, the federal government has asked the provinces to treat all Canadian beer the same starting July 1, 1992.

The Minister underlined the importance of free domestic trade in beer to the viability of Canada's beer industry. "Removing our internal barriers is a necessary and urgent first step to enabling our industry to improve its international competitiveness," Mr. Wilson said.

"Ontario has already announced its agreement to change its practices, on a reciprocal basis. We look forward to similar commitments from all the other provinces." He noted that the federal and provincial governments had been working on domestic beer barriers as part of the overall process launched by First Ministers in 1987 to eliminate barriers to interprovincial trade.

Canada has submitted to the GATT Secretariat today an implementation plan to comply with the recommendations of the GATT panel report. (A copy of the GATT submission is attached).

"The provinces, industry and unions have been fully consulted in the Canadian response to the GATT panel report," Mr. Wilson said. "The package presented to GATT reflects the provinces' implementation plans. The federal government will continue to work in partnership with the provinces and industry as this plan is implemented."