



GATT PANEL REPORT ON PROVINCIAL LIQUOR BOARD PRACTICES

OTTAWA -- The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, confirmed today that the report of the GATT Panel which examined the complaint by the European Communities with respect to certain practices of the Provincial Liquor Boards has been received by the parties to the dispute. The Government is now examining the report and is discussing it with the provincial governments and the industries concerned.

The Panel has found that practices of the Provincial Liquor Boards relating to differential mark-ups, listing requirements and distribution which discriminate against imported alcoholic beverages are to be brought into line with the GATT rule of national treatment (i.e. that imported products be treated no less favourably than domestic products).

The Government is reviewing its options on this matter and will announce the outcome of this review at the appropriate time.

Miss Carney noted that Canada attaches great importance to the maintenance of an effective multilateral trading system and that she looked forward to the cooperation of the provinces in finding a satisfactory resolution of this matter.

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