

E. FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL SERVICES REGULATIONS

Eliminating the barriers to interprovincial trade in services which are principally due to multiple and differential sets of regulations would directly reduce the administrative costs to business. This, according to the Nielsen Task Force on the Management of Government is estimated to be quite significant in dollar terms. Removal of the barriers would benefit smaller business to a relatively greater extent as it finds the costs of compliance similar to a regressive form of taxation. The fiscal burden on governments would also be reduced as savings are realized in monitoring, enforcement and supervision.

The majority of benefits would arise from greater efficiency in the production and distribution of services. For example, in trucking, competition would be keener without entry barriers and goods could move from Newfoundland to British Columbia without obtaining approval from all provincial jurisdictions. The most technically specialized form of transport could be utilized. Ultimately, the consumer would benefit both in quality of service and price. In telecommunications, rates would become rebalanced to reflect economic costs of production and transmission and more specialized carriers would emerge which would result in user savings. As telecommunications are progressively embodied in manufactured goods and other services, the contingent favourable impact on the economy is increased. In the provision of financial services, more options will become available directly suited to customer needs and provided conveniently and at least cost by shared distribution systems. This will broaden and deepen the capital markets and redound favourably to the financing of Canadian business. Consumer protection which is critically important in the smooth functioning of the financial sector would be strengthened by the adoption of uniform performance standards and the consistent application of such standards.

The elimination of barriers that affect business practices and professional skills can only enhance the mobility of personal expertise. This is vital to a labour market which is relatively small