

54. Because of the foregoing, and the fact that the sale of standards is an important revenue-producing activity for the accredited SWOs, there is a financial disincentive to promoting both bi-national and international harmonization of standards.

55. The Committee is concerned with the apparent disincentive to both bilateral and international harmonization and recognizes the importance of standards to Canada's ability to trade competitively.

The Committee therefore recommends that:

- 6.5 Financial priority should be given to Canadian participation in relevant international standards development activities and to incentives for standards writing organizations (SWOs) if they make their standards international standards. Perhaps funding can be achieved for the incentive program by levying fees across the board to member SWOs and then using these levies to reward harmonization successes, thereby partially compensating for potential sales revenue losses.**
- 6.6 The reporting mechanism to Parliament of the Standards Council of Canada should be reviewed in light of the importance of standards to Canada's ability to trade competitively.**