

new rules and commitments in such areas as technical barriers to trade (e.g. standards) and government procurement (purchases of goods or services by governments for their own use). In the Uruguay Round (1986-1993), GATT members added services and trade-related intellectual property issues to the ambit of trade talks, and finally succeeded in negotiating rules for farm trade; in the same period, NAFTA partners negotiated a chapter on investment. All of these efforts were aimed at ensuring that trade was conducted on a fair and transparent basis according to the rules of some part or another of the international trade regime—that is, the GATT and its successor, the World Trade Organization (WTO) of 1995, and all the regional and bilateral agreements that govern world trade and trade policy. However, as you'd expect with trade representing nearly half the economy, the effect has been to dramatically increase the number of areas of Canadian public policy that are touched by some aspect of that regime. This alone is reason enough for Canadians to pay close attention to the issues addressed by our trade policy.



Trade policy can create opportunities within Canada and—allied with other policies and measures—can promote prosperity, democracy, justice and social stability worldwide. In other words, the coherent management of trade policy with and through a range of domestic and international policies helps us to achieve Canada's global political and social objectives. This paper sets out some of the issues behind how Canadians and their governments interact with, contribute to, and benefit from the world beyond our borders in the realm of trade and investment.