



II. Promoting the Prosperity of Canadians and Global Prosperity

Questions the Dialogue Paper asked:

- How should Canada take advantage of its location in North America to increase prosperity while promoting our distinctive identity?
- What should Canada do to help make the benefits of globalization more widely shared within and among all countries?
- Should Canada focus on cultivating new economic partnerships with emerging powers such as China, India, Mexico and Brazil?

Global and Regional Opportunities

A country so substantively tied to the global marketplace must not overlook the opportunity to develop alternative destinations for our goods and services. ... Canadians must take advantage of opportunities wherever they are ... but [Canada] should be careful to ensure that these opportunities are not at the expense of a proven customer such as the United States.

– Dialogue participant

Most participants recognize that as a trading nation, Canada depends for its prosperity on an open and stable rules-based international economic system. The question of whether, and to what extent, Canada should pursue further liberalization of international trade and investment flows is contested. Many participants urge fundamental reforms in international economic systems and institutions are needed in order to ensure that the benefits of a globalized economy are fairly shared. And while many urge stronger strategic links in foreign and trade policy, concerns are frequently expressed about commercial considerations dominating and constraining the independence of our foreign policy. Overall, however, there is widespread recognition of the importance of continental economic relationships. Equally, there is strong advocacy of expanding and diversifying Canada's economic ties beyond North America, both because over-dependence on the U.S. market is seen as an unwise long-term strategy and also because we should not lose out on potential gains from wider connections.

While a number of respondents note that diversified trade is more easily advocated than accomplished,