



Canadian firms want to be world leaders. They want to be excellent. Why hold them back?

A NEW ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Canada is one of 144 members of the World Trade Organization and was a founding member of its predecessor, the GATT, in 1948. Canada is no stranger to global trade negotiations.

In November 2001, WTO members met in Doha, Qatar, and launched a new round of trade liberalization negotiations. So the hard work is just beginning; negotiations aren't scheduled to end until 2005.

The "Doha Development Round"—named because of its specific attention to the priorities of developing countries—involves negotiations on a wide range of issues. Among the most important are the reduction and eventual phasing out of all export subsidies, and the reduction of other barriers to trade in agricultural and non-agricultural products. Negotiations will deepen on liberalizing trade in services.

Negotiations will cover regulatory matters: clarifying and improving the rules on anti-dumping, subsidies and countervailing duties; improving how disputes are settled; finding the best way to help developing countries adapt to WTO rules at a pace appropriate to their needs; and more.

In addition, members will lay the foundation for future work on transparency in government procurement, foreign investment and competition, and will continue improvements to shape a more transparent and open WTO.

Members will also negotiate about the impact of trade rules on other issues. That includes reviewing the relationship between WTO rules and international environmental agreements.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CANADA?

As negotiations progress, Canada aims to shape rules that advance its priorities.

GREATER ACCESS TO MARKETS FOR CANADIAN EXPORTERS: Opening up the rapidly growing global market in services plays to our strengths as world-class producers and creates opportunities for Canadians.

GREATER COMPETITIVENESS FOR CANADIAN FIRMS: The reduction and removal of other countries' tariffs and subsidies on key Canadian exports—including agricultural products, fisheries, aircraft, steel and shipbuilding—will bring prices into line with costs and make Canadian exports more competitive.