

of our economy given over to trade, we are quite comfortable with interdependence and international regulation.

As it unfolds, this growing interplay between the domestic and the international must have a significant impact on your daily lives as legal professionals. It imposes a professional responsibility to stay current with international legal developments. The practice of law has traditionally been viewed as a field that was jurisdiction-specific. Lawyers were rarely allowed to move beyond the confines of the law of their jurisdictions. But decisions about mobility rights in the European Union and under the Charter of Rights in Canada blazed a new trail. So too, in the new world trade order, things are different. If the statute that you interpret or apply flows from international considerations or has international consequences, you must be aware of this international dimension. If enforcement of global trade rules in part takes place at the domestic level and is not limited to the government-to-government arena, your advice must include continuing analysis of these rules. If domestic courts and tribunals are becoming local agents for the enforcement of international rules, then the relationship between domestic law and international law must be recognized explicitly. The practice of law is thus at the epicentre of a developing rule of international trade law.

But even the best-designed dispute settlement system, supranational or domestic, can only work if the rules themselves respond to business imperatives. And, as I mentioned, G-7 leaders at Halifax affirmed their commitment to addressing areas where the rules still fall short. However, we in government work from our remote capitals. Accordingly, we are dependent on you, on the front lines, to inform us of what is actually happening and what response is required. The legal community plays an essential role, not only in helping to write and to enforce the rules, but also in thinking strategically about where we are headed and to keep pace with developments as they unfold. New issues, including trade and environment, trade and competition, employment and labour standards, will increasingly require our attention, whether in the World Trade Organization or in the various regional groupings.

An ongoing dialogue among the legal community, business and government is essential to the development of an intelligent response to economic trends. I look forward to the next Cambridge Lectures to ensure that our lines of communication remain open.

Thank you.