

the discussions on intellectual property in relation to trade.

A number of issues have already been identified for consideration in revising these statutes which could or should be discussed within the context of trade matters and in respect of which a policy decision must be made. A partial list of such issues is as follows:

Patents

1. Compulsory Licensing of Pharmaceutical Patents

In 1969 the Patent Act was revised to permit the compulsory licensing of pharmaceutical patents in order to increase competition in these products and thereby reduce the price which was much higher in Canada than other countries. The revision resulted in many licenses being issued and a moderation in the price of the drugs caused by these licences. The drug companies which own the patents, largely foreign multinational companies, charge that the royalty they receive does not adequately cover their loss of income nor are they able to recover their research and development costs.