

making; if it is shallow and narrow, the resulting policy is more likely to prove a mistake than a solution. Policy makers thus are critically dependent on the background work done by analysts.

Some of this analysis is done within government and benefits from the specialized knowledge available only to governments. Much of this in-house analysis, however, also suffers from being too close to the political process and for being short-term in outlook. The analysis done by independent scholars is thus likely to be more disinterested and varied and based on a much longer time horizon. If done well, it will influence policy making; if not, it will be dismissed as suffering from academic irrelevance. Good research is thus critically important if Canadian policy makers are to exercise wise choices in the years to come and bring Canadian influence to bear on international economic negotiations. The challenge is to ensure that the research undertaken reflects the issues that Canada will need to address. In that sense, policy makers need the researchers and the researchers need the policy makers. There has never been a time when there was greater need for dialogue.