Canada’s Progressive Trade Agenda (PTA)

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What is Canada’s PTA?

• Canada’s Progressive Trade Agenda
  – New approach to trade policy that contributes to government’s broader economic, social, and environmental policy priorities.

• The PTA seeks to ensure that the benefits and opportunities that flow from trade and investment are more widely shared among Canadians.
Global Trading Environment

• The Government has been closely following debates on trade and globalization at home and abroad.

  – EU: Criticism of CETA, U.S.-EU TTIP.
  – UK: Brexit
  – USA: Withdraw from TPP, renegotiations of NAFTA and KORUS.
Global Trading Environment (cont.)

• The debates raised a range of public concern with trade agreements.
• Sustaining support for trade in a trade dependent country like Canada is critical.
The PTA: Canada’s Response

• Informed by input received from Canadians through government consultations.
• The PTA seeks to ensure that all Canadians can take advantage of and benefit from the opportunities created by trade and investment.
• The PTA aims to:
  – Support economic growth for all Canadians;
  – Maintain confidence in an open, rules-based trading system.
The Pillars of Canada’s PTA

1. An informed and inclusive approach to trade policy-making

2. Progressive content in trade agreements

3. Continued international engagement
1) Informed and inclusive approach to trade policy-making

- Thorough consultations and ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, including with underrepresented groups.
- Improved transparency throughout the negotiation process.
2) Progressive content in trade agreements

• Further improvements to labour and environmental elements.

• Seeking progressive elements in “traditional” chapters.

• New dedicated progressive chapters.
  – i.e. Trade and Gender, SMEs, and Trade and Indigenous Peoples.
Example: Trade and Gender Chapter

• The modernized Canada-Chile FTA included Canada’s first Trade and Gender chapter.
  – Acknowledges the importance of incorporating a gender perspective into economic and trade issues;
  – Provides a framework for both parties to undertake cooperation activities on issues related to trade and gender;
  – Establishes a bilateral Committee under the Agreement that would oversee these cooperation activities.
3) Continued international engagement

• Enhanced bilateral and multilateral engagement and participation in international forums to advance progressive/inclusive trade.
  – E.g. the OECD, WTO, G20, APEC
Moving Forward

• PTA the new “standard” for Canada to conduct and negotiate FTAs

• Continue to advance the PTA in ongoing and future negotiations