



Global Affairs
Canada

Affaires mondiales
Canada

Canada



Canada's Progressive Trade Agenda (PTA)

Stephen de Boer

Canada's Ambassador and Permanent
Representative to the WTO

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