

Invitation to attend Distinguished Lecture

CANADA'S PROGRESSIVE TRADE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, 25 APRIL FROM 17:00-18:00, FOLLOWED BY A DRINKS RECEPTION (APÉRO)

Silva Casa Auditorium, World Trade Institute, University of Bern

Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern, Switzerland

Abstract

Canada is a global leader in championing a rules-based international trading system and its institutions, including the World Trade Organization (WTO). Canada's historic and ongoing role in shaping the multilateral trading system means working hard to improve and strengthen these rules and institutions for today's global economy to benefit Canadians and citizens worldwide.

Canada's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO in Geneva will discuss how Canada – under the Progressive Trade Agenda - is promoting a global trading system that reflects an inclusive and progressive approach that benefits the middle class and those striving to join it. Specifically, Ambassador de Boer will share the rationale behind the Progressive Trade Agenda and explore how gender equality, environmental sustainability and approaches to better address the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises can be better integrated into trade policy negotiations.

Biography of the Speaker

Stephen de Boer joined Global Affairs Canada in 2005 and has held various positions in the department, including in the Investment Trade Policy and North America Trade Policy Divisions. In 2006, he was named the Director of the Softwood Lumber Division. From 2008 to 2010, he served as the Director of the Oceans and Environmental Law Division and as Lead Counsel for Canada's international climate change negotiations. In 2010, he joined Environment Canada as the Deputy Chief Negotiator for climate change and the Director General responsible for Canada's international climate change negotiations and partnerships. Mr. de Boer returned to the department in 2013 as the Director General of the Trade Controls Bureau. In 2015, he was appointed Ambassador to Poland and in 2016, Ambassador to Belarus. Prior to joining the public service, he worked for the Government of Ontario.



Mr. de Boer has published and lectured on international trade and environmental issues including at the Faculty of Law at Western University, Ryerson University, and at the School of Law at Case Western Reserve University. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Canada-U.S. Law Institute. Mr. de Boer has a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from Western University and a Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University.

On August 21, 2017, Mr. de Boer was appointed as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

Participation is free of charge. Due to limited seating, please register [here](#).