



9. DISMANTE INTERNAL BARRIERS THAT COST CONSUMERS AND DISCOURAGE INVESTORS

Most of the impediments to trade within Canada are not tariff barriers, but differing laws, standards and regulations originally enacted to promote economic development, protect consumers, workers and the environment and to set minimum standards by which businesses must abide.

Many of these rules impose slightly different standards that effectively serve as protectionist barriers under the guise of public interest. These barriers to trade increase the costs of doing business between provinces, discourage the growth and expansion of Canadian companies and cost consumers billions of dollars every year.

The most efficient manner to eliminate these barriers is mutual recognition of regulations where provinces and territories would agree that a good or service legally provided in one province should be allowed into another, even if regulatory requirements differ. Allowing businesses to operate more freely between provinces and territories will increase economic growth and job creation.

We will continue to support the creation of a new Agreement on Internal Trade and press provincial leaders to eliminate regulatory barriers through a new agreement or in bilateral or multi-jurisdictional agreements to reduce protectionist measures deployed against Canadians.