

June 12, 2012

The Honourable David Ramsay
Chair, Committee on Internal Trade
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
2nd Floor, Legislative Assembly
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Minister:

I am writing to urge the Committee to continue its important work on improving the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) and to create an open and fair domestic market in Canada.

In 2011, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce worked with its vast network of members - local chambers of commerce, large corporations and small businesses - to identify the key barriers hindering our ability to compete. Those consultations have identified 10 critical policy and regulatory barriers which will be the focus of our advocacy and outreach activities.

Prominent among the ten issues identified during this consultation process was the need to create a truly open market in Canada. A competitive national economy requires the free flow of people, goods, and services. By removing existing interprovincial trade barriers and harmonizing interprovincial standards, interprovincial trade is rendered more efficient, more accessible and allows for greater mobility of tradespeople and professionals.

The Committee's work to date on improving the (AIT) has been widely welcomed by the business community and all efforts should be made to further strengthen this agreement. The patchwork system of regulations within Canada significantly hinders our productivity and competitiveness which in turn limits our economic prosperity. According to Robert Knox, "...unless Canada ensures that its professionals and skilled workers can work anywhere in the country, it could limit our ability to attract the people our economy needs."

While the Canadian Chamber of Commerce welcomes the work done to date, to be truly effective, the AIT must contain appropriate enforcement mechanisms. To this end, the Committee should strengthen the person-to-government dispute resolution mechanism so that it more closely aligns with the recently

420 - 360, rue Albert St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 7X7

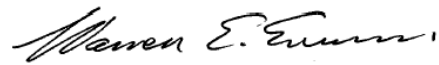
613.238.4000
613.238.7643

Chamber.ca
info@chamber.ca

revised government-to-government dispute resolution process. In particular, these revisions should include monetary fines for continued non-compliance and allow disputants direct access to an Internal Trade Tribunal.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce would be pleased to work further with you on the creation of truly open and competitive domestic market.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Warren E. Everson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the end.

Warren Everson
Senior Vice President, Policy