

**REDUCING INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE BARRIERS:
PROGRESS OVERVIEW**

In July, premiers committed to immediate and meaningful progress on internal trade, including enhancing trade and consumer choice in alcoholic beverages; and reducing regulatory barriers in occupational health and safety, transportation, agriculture, and business registration. Premiers also agreed to increase significantly personal use exemption limits for alcoholic beverages being moved across provincial and territorial boundaries and to advance discussions on bringing the financial services sector under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA).

Premiers Pallister and McNeil have been leading this work. On Dec. 4, 2018, all premiers announced progress in the following four areas (<http://www.canadaspremiers.ca/premiers-deliver-progress-on-internal-trade-barriers/>):

Transportation

- All provinces and territories have agreed in principle to allow the use of wide-base single tires at weight parity with conventional dual tires on all major trade routes in Canada by the end of 2019, some through a permit-based system.
- Ministers responsible for transportation will meet in January to officially approve the amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding on Vehicle Weights and Dimensions, which will allow the use of wide-base single tires at weight parity with conventional dual tires on designated routes in Canada by early 2019. Each jurisdiction will then be expected to implement amendments through local regulations allowing for permits or providing or authorizations.

Alcoholic beverages

- Seven provinces and territories will be joining Manitoba and Alberta with no prescribed personal exemption limits for alcohol moving across provincial and territorial borders.
- Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories and Yukon are raising their prescribed limits at this time, but not removing them entirely.
- Implementation timeframes will vary due to the need for regulation or legislation changes, but provinces and territories are committed to timely action.
- Beyond exemption limits, provinces and territories are committed to further enhancing trade in alcoholic beverages and to support improved consumer choice, convenience and enhanced sales channels for producers. This action plan is to be provided to trade ministers by June 2019.

- Manitoba already allows direct to consumer sales for beer, wine and spirits and would fully support development of a national model that would meet associated international trade requirements.

Occupational health and safety

- Provinces and territories have agreed to adopt common standards for occupational health and safety equipment including first aid kits, head protection, eye and face protection, hearing protection, foot protection, and personal floatation devices and life jackets.
- Ministers responsible for labour will meet in January to officially endorse the common standards and discuss implementation, which is expected to be complete by the end of 2019.
- Manitoba was the first province to adopt the new standards in November 2018.

Business registration

- A new multi-jurisdictional registry access system is expected to be in operation by 2020. This system will streamline registration requirements, facilitate the exchange of information between jurisdictions, and help reduce duplicative costs and red tape.
- Premiers have also committed to addressing registration red tape for businesses who manufacture pressure equipment (e.g. boilers). Provinces and territories are in the process of enabling mutual recognition of Canadian Registration Numbers for pressure equipment.

Manitoba has previously called for action by the Government of Canada on federal trade barriers including:

- proposed major regulatory regimes including Environmental Assessment (Bill C-69) and Fisheries Act amendments (Bill-68);
- CFTA exemptions, as the federal government has more exemptions in the area of procurement than any other jurisdiction;
- meat inspections for processing and sale;
- new food inspection rules under The Safe Food for Canadians Act; and
- alignment of energy-efficiency standards for home appliances with those in some provinces and the United States.

First ministers met on Dec. 7, 2018, and agreed to accelerate federal-provincial-territorial work to address domestic barriers, specifically to:

- Develop harmonized standards in the trucking sector, building on federal investments in the National Trade and Transportation Corridors initiative, for wide-base tires, electronic logging devices, and size and weight restrictions.
 - All provinces and territories have already agreed to move forward on wide-base single tires. Manitoba supports all of these initiatives.
- Take action to strengthen Canada's agri-food sector including clearer rules for organic products and eliminating the duplication of food safety oversight. The Government of Canada will also continue to work collaboratively with the territories to support their food industries and build food security.
 - Manitoba has already called for action on these issues.
- Consult industry and consumers to develop ways to facilitate the sale of alcoholic beverages, taking into consideration social responsibility obligations. As a first step, Canada will consider amendments to The Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act to remove the federal requirement that alcohol moving from one province to another be sold or consigned to a provincial liquor authority.
 - Manitoba is already leading the way on this issue, as it has no prescribed personal exemption limits for alcohol moving across provincial or territorial borders and already allows direct-to-consumer sales for beer, wine and spirits.
- Accelerate work to strengthen the CFTA including a plan to reduce the number of exceptions and strengthen the dispute resolution provisions.
 - Manitoba has already called for action on these issues.