

Timelines Backgrounder

Canadian Free Trade Agreement: Timelines

April 7th, 2017

Next steps once the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) is in effect on July 1, 2017.

Within six months:

Financial services

 Parties engage in exploratory discussions to assess the incorporation of rules on financial services into the CFTA.

Food sector in the Territories

- The Governments of Canada, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut establish a working group.
- The working group develops options for economic development and initiatives in the Territories' food sector.

Within one year:

Regulatory reconciliation and cooperation

- Parties establish a Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT) to oversee the regulatory reconciliation process.
- RCT submits an annual work plan to the Committee on Internal Trade.
- RCT produces a publicly-available annual report on its work.

Alcoholic beverages

 Parties establish a working group that submits a report to the Committee on Internal Trade which identifies specific opportunities and recommends initiatives to further enhance trade in wine, beer and spirits within Canada.

Food sector in the Territories

 Parties establish a working group that provides recommendations to the Committee on Internal Trade within one year to address the challenges associated with producing healthy food and to mitigate the high costs of food for residents of the Territories.

Dispute resolution

 Parties undertake a review to determine whether Person-to-Government Dispute Resolution should apply to measures adopted or maintained by a party's regional, local, district or other forms of municipal government.

Between two and three years:

Financial Services

 Parties conclude negotiations within two years after engaging in exploratory discussions on financial services.

Within five years:

Regulatory reconciliation and cooperation

Parties review the functioning and effectiveness of the regulatory reconciliation mechanism.

Additional commitments:

Party-specific exceptions

Parties establish a working group on party-specific exceptions.

Trade in fish and fish products

Parties establish a working group on trade in fish and fish products.

Ongoing annual commitments:

Committee on Internal Trade

The Committee on Internal Trade prepares annual reports on the functioning of the CFTA.

Labour Mobility

 The Forum of Labour Market Ministers annually produces a report on the operation of Chapter 7 (Labour Mobility) and submits that report to the Committee on Internal Trade.

Regulatory reconciliation and cooperation

- The RCT submits an annual work plan to the Committee on Internal Trade.
- The RCT produces a publicly-available annual report on its work.

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