

March 5, 2008



THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA

# *news@chamber.ca*

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## ***Canadian Chamber Welcomes Expansion of Temporary Foreign Workers Units***

As recommended in the coalition report co-chaired by the Canadian and U.S. Chambers of Commerce, *Finding the Balance: Reducing Border Costs While Strengthening Security*, Citizenship and Immigration Canada has expanded the Temporary Foreign Worker Units (TFWUs) to Toronto and Moncton. TFWUs facilitate legitimate business travel by offering guidance and pre-screening to employers seeking temporary foreign workers and foreign professionals including those that meet NAFTA qualifications.

*For more information on this issue, contact Ryan Stein, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000, x250, [rstein@chamber.ca](mailto:rstein@chamber.ca).*

## ***Council for Intellectual Property Protection Initiative Being Launched***

In conjunction with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, businesses have banded together to create a new coalition in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy which will also advocate widely for an improved intellectual property (IP) regime in Canada. The Council for Intellectual Property Protection (CIPP) has been created as a separate initiative under the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Its goals will be straightforward: to promote an improved IP environment in Canada while raising the profile of IP among policy makers and the general public and to keep fighting the epidemic that counterfeiting and piracy has become worldwide.

Leading economic jurisdictions around the world have made IP protection a priority. In Japan, an IP Strategy Council has been organized. This issue was deemed so important in Japan that it has the prime minister leading the organization. In France, an anti-piracy commission designed to curtail Internet piracy was launched and is overseen by French President Nicolas Sarkozy with the ministers of the economy and culture as the lead ministers responsible. If Canada does not follow suit, Canadian businesses will be left at the periphery of the global economy. The idea of an IP Council in Canada was presented to key ministers in the fall.

*For further information on this initiative, contact Chris Gray, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000, x251, [cgray@chamber.ca](mailto:cgray@chamber.ca).*

### ***Security and Prosperity Partnership Intellectual Property Working Group Meetings***

In mid-March, Vancouver will host this year's Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) IP working group meetings. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, along with businesses and stakeholders will gather to discuss advancing IP under the SPP with government. The results of these meetings will be used in the preparation of documents for presentation at the next North American Leaders Summit this summer. The Canadian Chamber will be looking to follow up on the *IP Action Strategy* that was announced at the 2007 summit in Montebello. In addition, the Canadian Chamber will advocate its support and call for action on the *Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)* that Canada announced its participation in on October 23, 2007. The main objective of ACTA is to develop international standards to better combat the trade in counterfeit trademarked and pirated copyright goods. Provisions would focus on international cooperation, enforcement practices and legal frameworks, including enforcement systems.

*For more information on this item contact Chris Gray, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000, x251, [cgray@chamber.ca](mailto:cgray@chamber.ca).*

### ***Canadian Government to Participate in World Health Organization (WHO) Meetings on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property***

Government representatives from both Health Canada and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will be attending WHO intergovernmental working group meetings on access to medicines in Geneva this April. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is concerned that previous meetings of this WHO working group have resulted in some nations leading the charge to reduce the effectiveness of patents and render them useless in some countries. It is imperative that Canada present a balanced approach at these meetings and advocate that IP is important and needs to be protected.

*For more information on this item contact Chris Gray, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000, x251, [cgray@chamber.ca](mailto:cgray@chamber.ca).*

### ***Canadian Chamber attends Global Congress Combating Counterfeiting & Piracy***

In early February, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce participated in the *4th Annual Global Congress Combating Counterfeiting & Piracy* in Dubai, UAE. Common issues emerged, such as the need to beef up border resources, increase international cooperation, need to increase pressure on the G8 leaders to take action and let finance ministers know how much money is lost for the government by not strengthening laws on counterfeiting and piracy.

*For more information on this item contact Chris Gray, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000, x251, [cgray@chamber.ca](mailto:cgray@chamber.ca).*

### ***Amendments to Canada Transportation Act (railway transportation) Receives Royal Assent***

Last week, Bill C-8, *An Act to Amend the Canada Transportation Act (railway transportation)*, received royal assent. The amendments are designed to help address shipper concerns about rail service and rates by removing the requirement for the Canadian Transportation Agency to be satisfied that a shipper would suffer substantial commercial harm before it grants a remedy and extending final

offer arbitration to groups of shippers on matters relating to rates or conditions for the movement of goods.

The government of Canada has also committed to begin a review of railways service within 30 days of the bill receiving royal assent and the government is currently consulting with shippers and rail service providers on the scope of this review.

*For more information on this issue, contact Ryan Stein, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000 x250, [rstein@chamber.ca](mailto:rstein@chamber.ca).*

### ***Canadian Chamber Welcomes Investment to Expand Border Crossing Facility in Lacolle, Quebec***

Last week the government of Canada committed \$10 million to expand Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) facilities at the Lacolle-Champlain border crossing. Lacolle-Champlain is the sixth busiest Canada-U.S. border crossing, accounting for approximately 735,000 commercial vehicle crossings per year. The Canadian Chamber has been actively seeking the development of a transportation solution to ease capacity and efficiency problem at Canada's major border crossings.

The expansion project, funded through the *Gateways and Border Crossings Fund*, consists of expanding commercial and bus processing facilities, resulting in improved border infrastructure, enhanced safety, and decreased traffic congestion.

*For more information on this issue, contact Ryan Stein, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000 x 250 or [rstein@chamber.ca](mailto:rstein@chamber.ca).*

### ***Legislation Introduced to Provide Marketing Choice to Western Canadian Barley Growers***

On March 3, the federal government introduced legislation to amend the *Canadian Wheat Board Act* to provide marketing choice to western Canadian barley growers. The proposed legislation clarifies that the federal government has the authority to repeal a regulation that extends the Canadian Wheat Board's monopoly over barley. This change would enable farmers to sell their barley to any foreign or domestic buyer, including the Canadian Wheat Board. This proposed amendment is needed to overcome the difficulties the federal government has recently faced, when both the Federal Court and the Federal Court of Appeal found that the federal government's attempt to remove the Wheat Board's barley monopoly through regulation was not allowed by the *Canadian Wheat Board Act*.

The proposed legislation also provides for commercial arbitration between producers and/or grain elevator companies with the Canadian Wheat Board to resolve disputes, rather than having to pursue resolution of these disputes through the court system.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce welcomes the introduction of this legislation, which acts on one of the recommendations made in the 2007 Canadian Chamber policy resolution on providing marketing choice to western Canadian wheat and barley growers. The proposed legislation seeks to provide western Canadian barley farmers with the freedom to market their product that these farmers want. In a 2007 plebiscite, 62 percent of western Canadian grain growers expressed a desire for

marketing freedom. The Canadian Chamber encourages all political parties to work together to allow this legislation to pass quickly in order to allow marketing choice in barley by August 1, 2008.

For more information, contact Brian Zeiler-Kligman, Policy Analyst, International, 613-238-4000 x225, [bzeiler-kligman@chamber.ca](mailto:bzeiler-kligman@chamber.ca).

### ***Input Sought - Legislative Review of Export Development Canada***

Many will know that Export Development Canada (EDC), Canada's export credit agency, provides financing, insurance and risk management solutions to Canadian exporters and those looking to invest in foreign markets. EDC is also a crown corporation that is wholly owned by the government of Canada.

The *Export Development Act*, the statute that created EDC, requires the minister of international trade to conduct a review of EDC every 10 years in order to provide advice and recommendations to the government and to Parliament on how EDC can best assist Canadian exporters and investors in international commerce. A consulting firm, International Financial Consulting Ltd., has been hired to conduct this review and will provide its report to the minister this fall.

The Canadian Chamber has been approached to provide input into this review. To assist the Chamber in doing so, we would like to receive feedback from members regarding their experience with EDC and if there are ways that EDC could provide better assistance to Canadian exporters and international investors.

If you are interested in providing input on this issue, contact Brian Zeiler-Kligman, Policy Analyst, International, [bzeiler-kligman@chamber.ca](mailto:bzeiler-kligman@chamber.ca), (613) 238-4000, x225 **by Friday, March 7.**

### ***Input Sought - Government's Market Plan for Russia***

The federal government announced a *Global Commerce Strategy* in its document *Advantage Canada* in November 2006. As part of this strategy, International Trade Canada is developing multi-year market plans for identified priority countries. One of the countries identified is Russia. The Canadian Chamber has been provided with a draft of this market plan for Russia and has been asked to provide feedback to the government.

If you or your company has an interest in importing from, exporting to or investing in Russia, we would be happy to share the draft market plan for Russia with you and would appreciate your insight on the government's proposed market plan.

Contact Brian Zeiler-Kligman, Policy Analyst, International, [bzeiler-kligman@chamber.ca](mailto:bzeiler-kligman@chamber.ca), (613) 238-4000, x225 by **Wednesday, March 12** to participate in this consultation.

## ***Canadian Chamber Encourages Federal Government to Challenge Abuse of WTO Technology Agreement***

The *Information Technology Agreement* (ITA) is a WTO agreement that came into force in 1997. Countries that are parties to the ITA commit to bind and eliminate customs duties on covered information and communications technology products. At present, 70 countries are signatories to the ITA, representing more than 97% of global trade in the high-tech sector. In recent years, some signatories, principally the European Union (EU), have taken a narrow approach to the ITA and have not provided duty-free benefits to newer and more technologically sophisticated versions of ITA products. In many instances, these goods have been subject to excessive tariffs. A number of other countries, led by the United States, are likely to pursue a WTO challenge of this practice, alleging that it violates both the letter and the spirit of the ITA.

On February 25, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to Assistant Deputy Minister of Trade Policy and Negotiations John Gero at International Trade Canada expressing its support for Canada joining any WTO dispute concerning the EU's reclassification of certain ICT products. This action by the EU violates the letter and the spirit of the *Information Technology Agreement* and sets a dangerous precedent if left unchallenged. The International Chamber of Commerce has also recently issued a policy statement on this issue in which the global business community called for all signatories to uphold the ITA. The Canadian Chamber fully supports this policy statement and included it with the letter to Mr. Gero. A copy of the letter can be found at: [www.chamber.ca/cmslib/general/080225LetterGero.pdf](http://www.chamber.ca/cmslib/general/080225LetterGero.pdf).

For more information, contact Brian Zeiler-Kligman, Policy Analyst, International, (613) 238-4000, x225, [bzeiler-kligman@chamber.ca](mailto:bzeiler-kligman@chamber.ca).

## ***Be Aware of Alternative Methods of Protecting of Protecting Inventions***

The Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) has made the Canadian Chamber aware that there are companies that are purporting to offer intellectual property rights to inventors and creators within Canada.

CIPO recommends that companies contact a registered patent agent for advice should you have any concerns. A list of patent agents is available on CIPO's Web site at [www.cipo.gc.ca](http://www.cipo.gc.ca).

## ***March is Fraud Prevention Month***

In Canada, over 100 Fraud Prevention Forum partners from coast to coast will participate in various activities throughout March, highlighting issues including fraud targeting youth, health fraud and fraud targeting small business. Internationally, 30 countries from around the world are hosting their own fraud prevention activities.

An Environics survey, conducted for the Competition Bureau, assessed 12 types of mass marketing fraud (MMF) targeting Canadians. Some startling numbers revealed that over the past year:

- 58% of Canadians reported that they had been targeted;
- those targeted reported receiving 16 fraudulent contacts;
- one million adult Canadians have fallen victim;
- 87% believe MMF is a serious problem in Canada; and

- the total amount Canadians have lost is at least \$450 million.

Visit the Competition Bureau's Fraud Prevention Forum Page <http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/epic/site/cb-bc.nsf/en/01842e.html> regularly throughout the month. There are a number of new products this year, including Fraud Prevention Month ticker tape news, a Fraud Prevention Month Newsletter, a Forum members' Calendar of Activities, as well as interactive Web tools.

### ***Calendar of Events***

***March 26th – Ottawa***

***March 27th – Montreal***

The Japanese External Trade Organization (JETRO) Toronto will host two seminars for companies that are interested in cultivating information and communications technology (ICT) business in Japan.

For more information on these seminars, go to the events flyers on JETRO's site at [http://www.jetro.go.jp/canada/news\\_events/events/pdf/ictseminarottawa.pdf](http://www.jetro.go.jp/canada/news_events/events/pdf/ictseminarottawa.pdf) (Ottawa seminar) [http://www.jetro.go.jp/canada/news\\_events/events/pdf/ictseminarmontreal.pdf](http://www.jetro.go.jp/canada/news_events/events/pdf/ictseminarmontreal.pdf) (Montreal event).

***April 30- May 2 - Montreal, ICC Arbitration Workshop***

ICC Events is organizing its first ICC Arbitration Workshop in Montreal on 30 April - 2 May 2008. The working language will be English.

The workshop seeks to provide participants with strategies and tactics in drafting arbitration documents under the ICC Rules. It will include drafting sessions and interactive discussions with renowned arbitrators and practitioners of ICC arbitration, aimed at providing a greater understanding of ICC arbitration practice.

Further information can be found at <http://www.iccwbo.org/events/display12/index.html?CodeICMS=S0817>.

***Please note that the number of participants will be limited to ensure maximum participation.***

Register on-line at <http://www.iccwbo.org/events> for a savings of 20 euros. In using the Canadian NC code, you will also be entitled to a further discount of 40 euros. The national committee codes for Canada is CAN -1680