



September 28 2018

The Honourable A. Raynell Andreychuk, Senator
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade
The Senate

Dear Senator Andreychuk:

The members of the Canadian Services Coalition (CSC) are most encouraged by the Government of Canada's prioritization of Bill C-79, the *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership Act*.

The CSC is Canada's only pan-sectoral industry group focused on trade in international services issues, and raising awareness of the importance of services to the Canadian economy. Our members have operations across the Asia-Pacific region and depend on the ability export services across all modes of supply.

Prompt ratification of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) will ensure that Canada benefits from early-mover advantage by being part of the first six countries to implement the agreement. We therefore encourage your committee to advance this legislation once it reaches you for study.

The CPTPP will provide Canadian businesses with enhanced access to a market of nearly 500 million people and a combined GDP of \$13.5 trillion. This includes countries where Canada does not have currently have preferential access, such as Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Australia.

Some of the key benefits the CSC foresees from the CPTPP include:

- Provisions in the Temporary Entry chapter that will more easily facilitate the movement of skilled professionals across borders to provide services on a temporary basis.
- A negative-list approach in the Cross-Border Trade in Services chapter which will provide greater transparency for trade restrictive measures.
- A prudential carveout protecting the ability of regulators to maintain the safety, soundness and integrity of the financial sector, as well as the establishment of a financial services committee to foster regulatory and procedural dialogue.
- Provisions in the E-Commerce Chapter that require the ability to freely move data across borders and restrict the ability to introduce data localization requirements.

- Measures in the Customs and Trade Facilitation Chapter to encourage greater automation and quicker clearance for express shipments.

Looking further ahead, CPTPP presents growth opportunities for Canadian businesses as other countries in the region explore avenues to accede as new members. Early ratification will award Canada a leadership role in shaping the future direction of the pact, leveraging it as a platform to advance Canadian interests in the region.

The CSC would be delighted to contribute further comments and intelligence that you might require as your committees undertake their study of Bill C-79.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Masciantonio', written in a cursive style.

Monica Masciantonio
Chair
Canadian Services Coalition

CC:

Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Mark Agnew, Executive Director, Canadian Services Coalition