

What is the most significant challenge to Canadian trade policy that the pandemic presents?

1. The pandemic has led to an **increase in protectionism** globally and highlighted **value chain vulnerabilities** particularly as it pertains to essential goods.
2. The most significant challenge is that **major issues such as climate change**, digital commerce, and others **are pushed aside** to deal with the pandemic.
3. The **need for harmonization between domestic policies** including industrial policy **with Canadian trade policy** so that we generate the most prosperity for all Canadians.
4. An accelerated **ongoing trend of anti-globalization** and a move to more inward / protectionist policies such as the increased use of subsidies and export controls
5. The challenge of finding the **right balance between benefits trade can bring and domestic imperatives** and citizen's well-being.
6. Canadas **inadequate capacity to make essential products** through our own domestic production, and the **need to** continue to **diversify** in a global situation that is causing stakeholders to focus more internally.
7. In our view, the most significant challenge to Can. trade policy is around **challenges to transparency related to market and trade distortion measures**.
8. The most significant challenge is the **further increased protectionism** that we have seen during the pandemic and likely to continue.

What is the most significant shortcoming of trade rules that the pandemic has revealed?

1. **Rules don't assist** in disciplining removal of pandemic measures which **leads to uncertainty** that is enhanced by the **lack of transparency** among Countries.
2. The **WTO** and its system of trade rules are **not equipped to address a global crisis** in a way that requires national actors to maintain open and transparent trade in essential goods.
3. The **need for stronger rules on transparency** to create more certainty/stability in international trade.
4. The **rules-based system** of international cooperation has been **further weakened by attempts to restrict exports** (ie medical equipment) needed to defend against Covid-19 and **by the lack of transparency**.
5. Although there are many serious gaps in the rules, **subsidies (both industrial and agricultural)** present the largest shortcoming.
6. The **reliance on WTO members** to be governed by these rules and their ability to enforce them, avoiding the difficulties caused by **a lack of transparency**.
7. **Trade rules have proven inadequate** to address this challenge (of protectionism), including **dispute settlement is too slow** to be helpful.
8. Global trading rules **allow for flexibility** to respond to the international crisis, including the **ability to rely on exceptions** when necessary, while still providing **a disciplinary framework** that the international community has **mostly respected**.

What is the most interaction (either positive or negative) between the pandemic and long-run trends in relation to trade policy?

1. The pandemic has shown that **thanks to globalization and interconnectedness, the multilateral trading system has proven more resilient than anticipated**, specially when crisis of this magnitude affect us all.
2. **Countries are** focused on domestic capabilities and **looking inward instead of working to problem solve** through the international community.
3. The most significant long-term trends influenced by the pandemic include **accelerating a move toward a digital economy/digital trade rules**, the need to **strengthen supply chains** (including in cases becoming less dependent on certain countries such as China), and exacerbating a **trend toward protectionist policies**.
4. The challenges brought by the pandemic has accelerated the **divide between China and the West**.
5. The imperative for **agility in adapting the trading system** and rules to rapidly changing circumstances, to promote a greener and more equitable post-pandemic recovery, in the context of governments still being compelled to focus on domestic priorities of their citizens.
6. The need to **improve rules/policies for digital trade** has been accelerated by covid-19, with a focus on services and information sharing, that highlights the need for multi-lateral agreements.
7. **Accelerated** some of the **challenges/issues digital trade** rules are not keeping up, massive amount of subsidisation.
8. The most significant interaction is how to **balance economic growth** through international trade **with economic self-reliance/resiliency** in order to limit protectionism and still support strategic interests (e.g. vaccines/PPE)