Identifying Barriers to Internal Trade and Labour Mobility in the Trucking Sector: Discussion Groups

On behalf of the Privy Council Office (PCO), Government of Canada, Altis Consulting is conducting a pilot research project to identify barriers to internal trade and labour mobility in the trucking sector. This research will help develop creative policy solutions to facilitate the movement of trucks and workers across provinces and territories.

We are currently looking for participants (business and workers in the trucking sector) to take part in discussion groups during the months of March and April 2024. The purpose of this phase of the research project is to understand how barriers to internal trade and labour mobility affect members of the trucking sector differently.

Please note that these focus groups will be bilingual, and that participants will have the opportunity to speak in the official language of their choice. Please also note that for reporting purposes, all input will be aggregated, and no confidential or proprietary information will be included.

**Interested participants can sign up between now and March 18 by clicking on the links** in the table below:

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| Purpose | Date and Time | Participant Groupings  | Register now for one focus group: |
| 1. Identify barriers to labour mobility between provinces and territories
 | Monday, March 25, 2:30 pm – 4:30pm EST | Truckers and other workers in the trucking sectors (especially members of underrepresented groups such as women, Indigenous people, People of Colour, Francophone workers, and immigrants) | <https://forms.gle/tuAAM3vgNqajyjoB6>  |
| 1. Identify internal trade barriers affecting rural, remote, and Northern trucking businesses
 | Tuesday, March 26, 2:30 pm – 4:30pm EST | Representatives from trucking businesses located in rural, remote, and Northern areas | <https://forms.gle/9XBxHSQs72DFaamr8>  |
| 1. Identify barriers affecting businesses in the Atlantic region
 | Wednesday, March 27, 2:30 pm – 4:30pm EST | Representatives from businesses located in the Atlantic region who can speak to specific regional supply chain and labour issues. | <https://forms.gle/M52GUEytMEZK439G6> |
| 1. Identify internal trade barriers affecting businesses owned by members of a minority group
 | Wednesday, April 3, 2:30 pm – 4:30pm EST | Owners and operators of a trucking business who are members of a minority group (women, Indigenous people, People of Colour, Francophones, and immigrants) | <https://forms.gle/3vBh5fknkPPrYsJk8>  |
| 1. Identify internal trade barriers affecting small- sized businesses
 | Thursday, April 4, 2:30 pm – 4:30pm EST | Representatives from small trucking businesses (less than 100 employees) | <https://forms.gle/DpXnPmyFugtWCfCaA> |
| 1. Identify other internal trade barriers
 | Monday, April 8, 2:30 pm – 4:30pm EST | Other stakeholders who do not fit in any of the above categories but who would like to participate in the research project | <https://forms.gle/xfXChcoTrxL1FrzL9>  |
| 1. Identify barriers preventing businesses from engaging in internal trade
 | Tuesday, April 9, 2:30 pm – 4:30pm EST  | Owners and operators of a trucking business that are only operating in one province or territory, including members of a minority group (women, Indigenous people, People of Colour, Francophones, and immigrants) | <https://forms.gle/LywSj7enqvg3oG5E6> |

## Background Information and Terminology

## What is Internal Trade?

Internal trade, also known as interprovincial trade, is the movement of goods, services, labour, and investments across provincial and territorial borders. For example:

* **Goods:** a product is sold for further processing in another province or territory, or a product is sold or transported to a customer in another province or territory.
* **Services:** a trucking sector worker (e.g. driver, mechanic, manager, administrator, operator) who sells their time to an employer in another province or territory.
* **Labour:** a trucking sector worker who wants to work in another province or territory.
* **Investments:** a trucking business opens a terminal in another province or territory.

## What is a trade barrier?

A trade barrier is anything that hinders the movement or operation of goods, services, labour or investment to/in another province or territory. Trade barriers can be divided into four broad categories:

* **Regulatory and Administrative:** Provincial/territorial permits/licensing/other paperwork requirements imposed on businesses that operate in multiple jurisdictions. For example, differing training requirements across provinces and territories.
* **Technical:** Industry-specific regulations that differ across provinces and territories. For example, differing spring weight restrictions or hours-of-service requirements between provinces and territories.
* **Prohibitive:** Provincial and territorial laws or requirements that unintentionally prohibit internal trade.
* **Natural:** Physical barriers such as geographical features, infrastructure, distance, and borders. For example, the lack of rest areas along highways.

**NOTE:** For the purposes of this research, the Government of Canada is primarily looking to hear about Regulatory and Administrative, Technical, and Prohibitive barriers.