

The Montreal Ministerial Meeting in December, 1988 was planned so that ministers from around the world could conduct a review of the Uruguay Round as it reached its mid-point. A review of developments to date in each of the several negotiating groups was on the agenda for the Montreal Meeting in order that ministers could provide political impetus and specific direction for the final two years of the negotiations.

Canada's Objectives in the Uruguay Round

The Canadian economy is highly dependent on trade. Consequently, Canada's top priority is to improve and to secure access to markets around the world. If the Uruguay Round is successful, trade barriers will be lowered further and international trade rules will be clearer and more effective. This will result in increased economic activity and employment in Canada.

What follows is a detailed explanation of Canada's five objectives.

Halting Protectionism and Improving Market Access for Goods and Services

Canada seeks to turn back the tide of protectionism and keep existing trade channels open. Canada also seeks to improve market-access conditions on as broad a front as possible, covering all products and all markets.

Canada believes that both tariffs and non-tariff barriers should be substantially reduced and, where possible, eliminated in order to restore confidence in the GATT's ability to halt erosion of the open trading system, to curb protectionism and to maintain the momentum of trade liberalization. Such an achievement would significantly