

XIII. OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR SUPPORT TO ASSIST THE PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS COMMUNITIES IN CANADA AND IN THE TCI TO INCREASE TRADE AND INVESTMENT

At the present time information in Canada about trade and investment opportunities in the Turks and Caicos Islands is somewhat limited and fragmented. Some information is available from:

- (a) The Canadian High Commission in Kingston, Jamaica;
- (b) the Caribbean and Central American Trade Development Division in the Department of External Affairs;
- (c) the Government of the TCI, including, in the case of investment in the Islands, the Private Sector Development Office;
- (d) firms, individuals and associations with a vested interest in attracting foreign investment in and commerce with the Islands (e.g. Canadian banks in the TCI, real estate agents and developers, lawyers and tax consultants specializing in estate planning and off-shore (international) financial services, the TCI Chamber of Commerce, the Turks and Caicos Development Organization, the Turks and Caicos Islands Research and Development Corporation, etc.);
- (e) first-hand knowledge acquired through visits to the Islands and discussions with representatives of the public and private sector.

The Department of External Affairs and its diplomatic and commercial officers abroad are primarily interested in promoting Canadian exports and investment in Canada.

Although the Canadian Government has assisted Canadian exporters to visit other Caribbean countries, there do not appear to have been any publicly supported Canadian trade missions to the TCI in recent years. The Canada Government apparently has not supported in-coming buying missions from the TCI, possibly due to the relatively small size of the Islands' economy.

The Government of the TCI support for the activities of its private sector aimed at attracting foreign investment and in promoting exports tends to be focussed primarily on investment. The TCI Private Sector Development Office is active but operates primarily on a responsive basis with a limited budget. The TCI Government does not have its own diplomatic, consular or commercial representatives in Canada (or in other countries). The Islands have a Tourist Board and a Hotel Association, but neither is officially represented in