

needed to respond to structural changes taking place in member economies.

- The OECD is proposing further work on aging populations and pension and social policy reform.
- Preliminary results from an OECD study on technology, productivity and job creation indicate that, among other factors, technological change increases the demand for skilled workers more than for unskilled workers. Advances in technology must be complemented by policies ensuring that workers receive the skills and training they need so that everyone benefits from technological change.

#### **Information society**

- In the new global economy, a key element of any technology strategy for jobs and growth is how the global information infrastructure can assist in the diffusion of knowledge.
- Ministers at a recent G-7 conference in Brussels paved the way for the development of a global information society – a society where information highways will accelerate the spread of knowledge and new ideas. It is a society where new products and services will lead to growth and more and better jobs.
- The Canadian view is that the OECD can support this vision by expanding its work on technology, productivity and job creation to include a study on the information society. It would include mechanisms to encourage full participation of developing countries in the global information society.

#### **STRENGTHENING THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

##### **World Trade Organization**

- The World Trade Organization (WTO), based in Geneva, was set up on January 1, 1995, to oversee the world trading system. Of the more than 120 members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), more than 80 have become members of the WTO. The WTO was created as a result of the recent Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.
- It is important for relatively small, trade-dependent countries such as Canada because it is the cornerstone of a global rules-based trading system. A key element of the WTO is the dispute settlement body.
- Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, said in a statement after the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' meeting