

FIPAs: Foreign Investment Protection Agreements. Canada has entered into over 20 such bilateral agreements to open foreign investment markets and protect the interests of Canadian investors in those markets.

FTA: Free Trade Agreement. In particular, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement that entered into force on January 1, 1989.

FTAA: Free Trade Area of the Americas. Proposed agreement between 34 countries of the Western Hemisphere to create a Free Trade Area, launched in Miami in December 1994.

GATT: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Beginning in 1947, the GATT was the multilateral institution overseeing the global trading system. It was superseded by the WTO in January 1995.

ICSID: The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes is an institution linked to the World Bank that provides facilities for the arbitration of investment disputes between member countries and investors of other member countries. Its arbitration rules can be used in investor/state dispute-settlement disputes under NAFTA Chapter 11.

ITA: Information Technology Agreement. A WTO agreement endorsed by several Members that calls for the gradual elimination of tariffs on information technology and telecommunications products.