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MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE ANNOUNCES MAKE-UP OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Minister for International Trade, James Kelleher, announced today the make-up of the International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC). The ITAC is part of a private sector advisory committee system set up by Minister Kelleher to advise the Government on international trade access and marketing issues. It will concentrate initially on Canada-U.S. trade negotiations and the next round of multilateral trade negotiations under the GATT.

Thirty nine prominent members of the business, labour, consumer, academic, research and cultural communities have been appointed to the ITAC. They represent all regions of Canada, and are experienced and knowledgeable in trade matters. In announcing the membership of the Committee, Mr. Kelleher said, "Their views and advice will be vital to the Government as we enter a period during which trade decisions of paramount importance to Canada's economic development will have to be made".

The ITAC will be chaired by Mr. Walter Light, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Northern Telecom Ltd.

Mr. Kelleher also announced that a number of Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGIT) will be established in the coming months to complement the work of the ITAC. The SAGIT will represent all sectors interested in the upcoming negotiations. The ITAC as well as the sectoral committees will work closely with Mr. Simon Reisman, the Ambassador and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Trade Negotiations. The committees will report to Mr. Kelleher.

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