

In addition to the advice offered in written submissions, the Government is working closely with the provinces, and it is further seeking the views of the private sector through the International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC) and the Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGITs).

The Minister said the trade barrier reductions under NAFTA are part of the Government's drive to increase Canada's economic competitiveness. "Canada must continually seek to increase its competitiveness to ensure a modern and prosperous economy.

"Guaranteed access to larger markets and removal of trade barriers strengthen Canadian competitiveness. We achieved these objectives with the FTA, and it is what we are working toward in the current multilateral trade negotiations (MTN) and the negotiations for NAFTA.

"Canadian businesses that are more competitive in North America will be able to meet competition worldwide," Mr. Wilson said.

Submissions on trade barrier reductions should be made to:

Office for Trilateral Trade Negotiations
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
C-3, Lester B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Fax: (613) 992-4695

Further information on making submissions is included in the attached annex.

-30-

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874