



initiative, a comprehensive review of the achievements and priorities of the NAFTA work program was launched in 1998. Initial results of this exercise include a Canadian initiative, within the Investment and Services Working Group, to discuss issues related to the implementation of Chapter Eleven, including the investor-state provisions.

Political direction for the NAFTA work program is provided by Ministers through the NAFTA Commission. In addition, NAFTA Deputy Ministers of Trade meet twice annually to provide high-level oversight of the NAFTA Working Groups and Committees. Day-to-day management of the NAFTA work program, and of the implementation of the Agreement more broadly, is carried out by the NAFTA "Coordinators" - the three senior trade department officials designated by each country.



The Canadian Section of the NAFTA Secretariat

The NAFTA Secretariat, comprising the Canadian, U.S. and Mexican Sections, was created by the NAFTA pursuant to Article 2002. It is responsible for the administration of the dispute settlement provisions of the Agreement. The mandate of the NAFTA Secretariat also includes the provision of assistance to the Commission and support for various non-dispute-related Committees and Working Groups. The Canadian Section of the NAFTA Secretariat is located at 90 Sparks Street, Suite 705, Ottawa ON, K1P 5B4, and can be reached by telephone at (613) 992-9388 and by fax at (613) 992-9392.

More specifically, the NAFTA Secretariat administers the NAFTA dispute resolution processes under Chapters Fourteen, Nineteen and Twenty of the NAFTA and has certain responsibilities related to Chapter Eleven dispute settlement provisions. Each National Section maintains a court-like registry relating to panel, committee and tribunal proceedings. The NAFTA Secretariat also maintains a trinational website (www.nafta-sec-alena.org/) on which updated information on active and completed NAFTA disputes is available.

