

International Trade Centres

have been established across the country as a convenient point of contact to support the exporting efforts of Canadian firms. Co-located with the regional offices of Industry Canada (IC), the centres operate under the guidance of DFAIT and all have resident Trade Commissioners. They help companies determine whether or not they are ready to export; assist firms with marketing research and market planning; provide access to government programs designed to promote exports; and arrange for assistance from the Trade Development Division in Ottawa and trade officers abroad. Contact the International Trade Centre nearest you.

The World Information Network for Exports (WIN Exports)

is a computer-based information system designed by DFAIT to help Canada's trade development officers abroad match foreign needs to the capabilities, experience and interests of more than 30,000 Canadian exporters. To register on WIN Exports, call: (613) 996-5701.

The Market Intelligence Service

provides Canadian business with detailed market information on a product-specific basis. The service assists Canadian companies in the exploitation of domestic, export, technology transfer, and new manufacturing investment opportunities. The intelligence is used by Canadian business in decisions regarding manufacturing, product development, marketing, and market expansion. The information includes values, volume and unit price of imports, characteristics of specific imports (e.g. material, grade, price, range, etc.), names of importers, major countries of export, identification of foreign exporters to Canada, Canadian production, Canadian exports, and U.S. imports. Two-thirds of the clientele for this service are small businesses. Call: (613) 954-4970.

Canadian International Development Agency

An important possible source of financing for Canadian ventures in Mexico is the special fund available through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the Industrial Cooperation Program or CIDA/INC. CIDA's Industrial Cooperation Program provides financial contributions to stimulate Canadian private-sector involvement in developing countries by supporting long-term business relationships such as joint ventures and licensing arrangements. INC supports the development of linkages with the private sector in Mexico encouraging Canadian enterprises to share their skills and experiences with partners in Mexico, and other countries. A series of INC mechanisms help enterprises to establish mutually beneficial collaborative arrangements for the transfer of technology and the creation of employment.

Industrial Cooperation Division
Canadian International Development Agency
200, Promenade du Portage
Hull, PQ K1A 0G4
Tel.: (819) 997-7905/7906
Fax: (819) 953-5024

Export Development Corporation (EDC)

EDC is a unique financial institution that helps Canadian business compete internationally. EDC facilitates export trade and foreign investment by providing risk management services, including insurance and financing, to Canadian companies and their global customers.

EDC's programs fall into four major categories:

- export credit insurance, covering short and medium-sized credits;
- performance-related guarantees and insurance, providing coverage for exporters and financial institutions against calls on various performance bonds and obligations normally issued either by banks or surety companies;

- foreign investment insurance, providing political risk protection for new Canadian investments abroad; and
- export financing, providing medium and long-term export financing to foreign buyers of Canadian goods and services.

Ottawa (Head Office)
151 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 1K3
Tel.: (613) 598-2500
Fax: (613) 237-2690

International Financing

Institutions, including the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, provide funds to Mexico for a wide variety of specific projects. These banks can provide details of upcoming projects and identify the Mexican executing agencies.

The **Embassy of Mexico**, Mexican Trade Commissioners in Canada, and Mexican consulates can provide assistance and guidance to Canadian companies in need of information about doing business in Mexico.

Embassy of Mexico
45 O'Connor Street, Suite 1500
Ottawa ON K1P 1A4
Tel.: (613) 233-8988
Fax: (613) 235-9123

Business and Professional Associations

The Canadian Council for the Americas (CCA) is a non-profit organization formed in 1987 to promote business interests in Latin American and Caribbean countries. The CCA promotes events and programs targeted at expanding business and building networking contacts between Canada and the countries of the region. It also publishes a bimonthly newsletter.

