

have been made to rationalize federal/provincial cooperation in pursuing export opportunities and to provide improved service to the private sector.

In all three dimensions of the National Trade Strategy there is a continuing need to ensure that the policies and programs are responding to the needs and priorities as perceived by the private sector and that there is a total team approach to the pursuit of these objectives. The ITAC and SAGIT system provides a comprehensive structure to ensure that the views of the private sector on broad national issues, or particular sector priorities, relating to international trade are discussed with the Government.

The ITAC and SAGIT structure provides the most complete means of consultations ever provided on international trade in Canada. The structure is, however, in addition to the consultation and dialogue that will continue between government and the private sector, both with individual companies and with associations.

The Department of External Affairs

ITAC and SAGIT both report directly to the Minister for International Trade. They will be assisted in their work by the Minister's department through Bob Richardson, Deputy Minister for International Trade and through Dwayne Wright, Senior Advisor and Co-ordinator of the Department of External Affairs' Trade Advisory Committee Secretariat.

The Department of External Affairs is responsible for co-ordinating ITAC and SAGIT meetings and for providing briefings to assist these committees in their deliberations. Arrangements will be made for the SAGIT to work directly with the Trade Negotiations Office in relation to either the Multilateral or Canada/US trade negotiations as they are undertaken.

Senior officials within the Department will be pleased to address the business community to explain the new consultative mechanism and to address trade issues of special interest to different sections of this community.

Conclusions

The Minister strongly urges the private sector to use the consultative mechanism now in place and to make it work to its advantage. Access to expanded markets is the goal. Dialogue will get us there.