

at “round table” meetings organized by the Government. Thousands of Canadians have been heard at meetings, deliberated in focus groups, made submissions, or otherwise participated in the development of Canada’s negotiating priorities.

The Government can also assure the Committee that interdepartmental and intergovernmental consultations are well under way. Over two dozen federal departments and agencies are helping to promote Canadian interests across a wide range of issues. Experts and officials throughout the Government confer regularly to develop trade priorities that reflect the aims of all Government programs, and the people they serve. The provincial and territorial governments are also actively consulted on all aspects of trade policy, and these consultations will continue throughout the new negotiations.

Parliament has the responsibility to make “laws for the peace, order, and good government” of this country. Canada’s international trade agreements promote peace and stability with our trading partners, provide order to our economic house, and establish rules to govern trade. Parliamentarians have a clear responsibility to know of, and contribute to, these important international trade matters. This Government welcomes the role of Parliament and the input of all Parliamentarians.

Agriculture and Agri-Food (recommendations 12 to 16)

The Government of Canada is committed to the competitiveness of the agriculture and agri-food sector. The overall goal is to help this sector maximize its contribution to Canada’s economic and environmental objectives, and to achieve a safe, high-quality food supply. This means maintaining a strong foundation for the agriculture and agri-food sector as well as for rural communities. Canada’s participation at the WTO forms an integral part of the Government’s efforts to promote the interests of Canada’s agriculture and agri-food sector.

