

we were told that companies wanted us to focus on six core services: market prospects; key contacts search; visit information; face-to-face briefing; local company information; and troubleshooting. More information on these and other services can be found at: <http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/help-e.asp#1>. The department welcomes feedback from companies using the TCS. Please phone: 1-888-306-9991.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM CANADIANS DOING BUSINESS ABROAD

DFAIT consults industry on market access issues through a variety of means, including the private-sector Team Canada Inc Advisory Board, which provides advice on both market development and trade policy. This body engages the business community directly and complements the various sectoral advisory groups on international trade (SAGITs). In view of the Government's strong commitment to ensure that all Canadians continue to have input into Canada's overall trade agenda, DFAIT has increasingly adopted a multistakeholder approach in several of its consultation activities, in which business and not-for-profit sectors participate.

In 1999, DFAIT launched the Trade Negotiations and Agreements website (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac>) to provide Canadians with accurate, clear and up-to-date information on Canada's trade policy agenda. The website also features a Consultations with Canadians section, which seeks opinions of Canadians on all related issues. We particularly welcome direct input from Canadian exporters and investors describing barriers they have encountered in foreign markets. Individual companies, industry associations and other interested organizations are encouraged to contact DFAIT with specific information on tariff or non-tariff barriers and other business irritants. Business people frequently alert Canadian trade commissioners and other DFAIT staff (such as agri-food or investment specialists based in markets around the world) to situations requiring local advocacy or troubleshooting. Often, these problems are reported to DFAIT headquarters for particular consideration from a strategic market access perspective. Business people are invited to report any problems they are experiencing by communicating in strictest confidence to:

"Foreign Trade and Investment Barriers Alert"

Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Fax: (613) 992-6002
e-mail: eat@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Business people are also encouraged to remain in touch with DFAIT on market access and other issues through its websites at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca or www.exportsource.gc.ca. These sites contain additional information on many of the issues covered in this document.