

The GATT

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is the cornerstone of the world trading system and of Canadian international trade policy. Canada was one of the 23 founding members of GATT in 1947 and has played a leading role in establishing the rules which now govern most international trade. Today, the GATT has 96 members, referred to as Contracting Parties. (See Appendix)

Canada is committed to the GATT. The Free Trade Agreement recently worked out by Canada and the United States, for instance, is consistent with Article XXIV of the GATT which allows signatories to negotiate free-trade areas.

GATT Contracting Parties are now engaged in the GATT's eighth major round of negotiations, known as the Uruguay Round, which began in Punta del Este, Uruguay in September 1986.

Canada believes that the Uruguay Round provides an excellent opportunity to resist protectionist threats, to maintain momentum in trade liberalization, to promote the rule of law in international trade and to strengthen the multilateral trading system.

