

Access services to support your success

A world of resources is available to support you in your efforts to expand and grow your opportunities. Here are some of the key services and programs worth investigating:

International trade support

Canadian Trade Commissioner Service
tradecommissioner.gc.ca

With an established presence in cities around the world, the TCS can help you navigate the complexities of international markets. We provide on-the-ground intelligence and practical advice on foreign markets to help Canadian companies make better, more timely and cost-effective decisions to achieve their goals abroad. Call toll-free at 1-888-306-9991.

Support to entrepreneurs

The federal government's regional development agencies provide programs to stimulate growth and support entrepreneurship across Canada, including programs for women. They include:

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (see the Women in Business Initiative) acoa-apeca.gc.ca
- Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions dec-ced.gc.ca
- Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency CanNor.gc.ca
- Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario FedDevOntario.gc.ca
- FedNor (Ontario) fednor.gc.ca
- Western Economic Diversification Canada wd-deo.gc.ca

Canada Business Network

The Canada Business Network provides assistance to entrepreneurs and small businesses through a network of service centres across Canada. Visit canadabusiness.gc.ca or call 1-888-576-4444 (TTY 1-800-457-8466 hearing impaired).

CanadExport canadexport.gc.ca

As the official e-magazine of the TCS, CanadExport features articles and podcasts that bring market insight to Canadian companies doing business internationally.

“ Sound advice

“If you want to grow internationally, free up some time each day to think beyond the borders. Dream big. You have to be bold. Who would you want to do business with? Study the market and target it as though money and time are not standing in your way. I am living proof that success is possible.”

Lee Meagher,
Founder and CEO

Scotaround Inc.
Winnipeg, MB



Canadian women in high places

More and more, women are contributing to Canada's trade agenda by getting involved in boards and organizations that give them an influential voice. Take, for instance, the Minister of International Trade's Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) Advisory Board. Composed of 18 members, the board guides Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada's efforts to assist Canadian SMEs. Its members make recommendations regarding the programs and services needed to help companies achieve their international goals.

“The women on the SME Advisory Board are tenacious. They are brilliant,” says member Mary-Anne Carignan, Co-President of Montreal-based healthcare information technology solutions company, Purkinje. Carignan knows first-hand the value that women bring to global trade issues. She is also the Co-Chair of the American Chamber of Commerce in Canada. “I think women need to be present at the table.”



Mary-Anne Carignan, SME Advisory Board member

Canadian business women are also involved in other Departmental advisory boards, including the Proactive Sector Advisory Boards, which provide advice on the five key proactive sectors involved in international trade, including aerospace, cleantech, information and communication technology, and life sciences. Participants ensure that an industry perspective informs policies and programs related to technology partnering, export promotion, value chain and market access, foreign direct investment and venture capital.

“You can see the wave of change that women are leading,” says Carignan. “They bring supreme common sense—something I firmly believe makes the business world turn.”

Did you know?

January 2013 marked the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. Since the agreement came into force, Canada's annual GDP has risen by \$1.1 trillion and nearly 4.8 million jobs have been created in Canada.