

- Also during May, Mr. Tom Burns, a former senior federal official and former President of the Canadian Export Association, was engaged for a four-month period as Special Co-ordinator for Market Access Consultations. In that capacity, Mr. Burns held some 91 confidential consultations with Canadian industry and other interested groups during the summer months.
- In early June, a focal point was established within the Department of External Affairs to provide an "information window" to the provinces on a daily basis, and to facilitate provincial input into the process. Three federal/provincial meetings at the officials level were held in June and July. A further meeting of Deputy Ministers is scheduled for late September in Ottawa. The Minister for International Trade will oversee the more intensified consultations with the provinces on the process and substance of the negotiations between now and the First Ministers Conference in November.
- Throughout the summer, more than 300 letters to the Minister for International Trade on the Discussion Paper were received and analysed. Approximately half of the letters came from Ontario residents and associations. Those from Quebec and Alberta each accounted for 10% and from British Columbia 7%. National associations constituted about 25% of the input.
- The Special Joint Committee of Parliament on Canada's International Relations held public hearings beginning mid-July on bilateral trade with the United States and on Canada's participation in research on the Strategic Defence Initiative. More than 300 organizations, as well as individual Canadians, were heard in meetings conducted in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg and Ottawa. Representations of business and labour organizations, as well as academics and research institutes, provided testimony at the hearings and submitted briefs.