
An equally extensive range of programs is available to help Canadian businesses capitalize on the new opportunities created by the Agreement. They include the Trade Commissioner Service of the Department of External Affairs; the Program for Export Market Development; the Microelectronics and Systems Development Program and the Technology Outreach Program operated by Industry, Science and Technology Canada. As well, the government remains strongly committed to regional development programs. The April 1989 budget provides for a consolidation of the government's commitments to regional development demonstrated over the past five years at levels which respect the government's fiscal situation and provide more long-term funding stability. The programs and services of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Department of Western Diversification and the Federal Special Northern Ontario Development Fund will continue to provide substantial regional development assistance.

In addition, the Advisory Council on Adjustment, composed of representatives from business and labour organizations and academics, has submitted its report to the government in which it makes a range of recommendations regarding adjustment assistance.

Government Procurement

All levels of government purchase goods and services to meet their own needs. In Canada, it is estimated that this market represents about \$71 billion. This is approximately 11 per cent of the total of all goods and services purchased in Canada, including both the public and private sectors. In the United States, the public sector market was estimated at about CDN \$750 billion, 10 times the size of the Canadian market.

For government procurement, the Agreement builds on the GATT Code on Government Procurement and opens up new opportunities in federal procurement for Canadian and U.S. suppliers. These new opportunities are accompanied by modifications to existing procurement practices. The U.S. and Canadian governments are committed to giving national or equal treatment to Canadian and American suppliers of eligible products (that is, North American products) in respect to federal government procurements that fall under the Free Trade Agreement. In the United States, the Buy America Act will not be applied to these procurements. In Canada, the Canadian Sourcing Policy, the Canadian Content Policy and the Area Buy Policy will not be applied.