

Small Business Access Centre
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Suite 3800
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Small Business Access Centre
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259 Saint-Joseph Boulevard
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Small Business Access Centre
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905 Dufferin Avenue
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Quebec City, PQ G1R 5M6
Tel.: (418) 648-4826
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Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean
170 Saint-Joseph Street South
Suite 203
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Tel.: (418) 668-3084
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WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION CANADA (WD)

WD is responsible for federal economic development activities in Western Canada. The Department works in partnership with the western provinces, business, industry associations and communities to stimulate the western Canadian economy.

WD's "New Directions" program will work to enhance the export position of western companies by boosting their competitiveness in domestic and global markets.

The Department no longer provides repayable loans to individual companies, but seeks new innovative partnerships within both the public and private sectors. These partnerships will address the needs of small- and medium-sized enterprises for information, business services and capital, particularly for high growth industries critical to Western Canada's economic diversification.

One of WD's new products focussed on export development is the International Trade Personnel Program. This federal-provincial initiative links export-focussed western firms with recent post-secondary graduates. The program accomplishes two important socio-economic goals: it gives companies the extra person-power they need to penetrate new markets, and it gives recent graduates valuable work experience. Under the new program, the length of export-development projects may vary from one to three years. Approved projects will be eligible for assistance ranging from C \$7,500 for one year, to a maximum of C \$37,500 per graduate over the three-year period. For more information, contact:

Western Economic Diversification Canada
The Cargill Building
240 Graham Avenue
Suite 712
P.O. Box 777
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2L4
Tel.: (204) 983-4472
Fax: (204) 983-4694

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (EDC)

EDC helps Canadian exporters compete in world markets by providing a wide range of financial and risk management services, including export credit insurance, financing to foreign buyers of Canadian goods and services, and guarantees.

EDC's products fall into four main categories:

- export credit insurance, covering short- and medium-term credits;
- performance-related guarantees and insurance, providing cover for exporters and financial institutions against calls on various performance bonds and obligations normally issued either by banks or surety companies;
- foreign investment insurance, providing political risk protection for Canadian investments abroad; and
- export financing, providing medium- and long-term export financing to foreign buyers of Canadian goods and services.

EDC has established relationships with leading commercial and public sector institutions in Mexico and Latin America. For more information on the range of services available, please refer to the customer teams below.

Base and Semi-Manufactured Goods Team:
Tel.: (613) 598-2823
Fax: (613) 598-2525