

News Release

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MACLAREN NAMES NEW CHAIRPERSONS AND ANNOUNCES RESTRUCTURING OF SECTORAL ADVISORY GROUPS

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, today appointed new chairpersons and members of the Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGITs), which have been restructured and streamlined to reflect current domestic and international realities. Mr. MacLaren welcomed the chairpersons of the International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC), its task forces and the SAGITs at a meeting in Ottawa.

"The SAGITs have provided an invaluable source of input into the formulation of Canadian trade policy, particularly during the trade negotiations of recent years. With an ever-growing range and number of trade issues affecting the success of Canadian interests abroad, there is a continuing need for frequent, open dialogue between the government and the private sector. I am confident that the renewed SAGITs will enable us to meet the challenges ahead."

While the total number of SAGITs will remain at 15, membership has been reduced from an average of 20 to 17 members. A new SAGIT, Medical and Health Care Products and Services, has been established to ensure that the views of this increasingly important sector are represented and other SAGITs have been combined to reflect common interests.

The ITAC and SAGITs, comprised of senior representatives of the business community, industry associations, labour and academia, provide the Minister for International Trade with advice on trade issues.

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An updated list of the ITAC and SAGITs and their chairpersons is attached.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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