The federal government, through its various departments, agencies, and Crown corporations provides a wide array of information and services to individuals and companies seeking joint ventures and foreign investments from partners located outside Canada. The following is a list of some of the main players in this field.

11.1 CANADA BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRES (CBSCs)

The CBSC initiative is designed to improve business access to a wide range of information on government services, programs and regulations. The initiative is a collaborative effort between federal, provincial and private sector organizations. A CBSC is being established in a major centre in each province.

- **The participants in this partnership arrangement**

There are many federal business departments participating in this initiative, as well as other levels of government and non-government organizations. The combination of participants varies from province to province. Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD), the Department of Industry, the Federal Office for Regional Development – Quebec (FORD-Q) and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) are designated federal managing partners and are responsible for the development and management of the CBSCs as follows:

WD:	British Columbia and Alberta
Industry Canada:	Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario
FORD-Q:	Quebec
ACOA:	Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland

- **Types of products and services provided by CBSCs**

Each CBSC offers a combination of products and services tailored to meet the needs of its distinctive client base.

The following is a list of the key products and services that may be available:

- a toll-free, front-line telephone information and referral service;

- the Business Information System (BIS): a comprehensive database containing information on the services and programs of participating departments and organizations;

- faxables: condensed versions of the BIS products accessed through the automated FaxBack system;