

A discussion paper entitled "Canada and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) Negotiations" was distributed to the participants to provide background information on the GATS, Canadian trade in services and Canada's negotiating principles, and to suggest topics for discussion. (See Appendix B for the text of the paper.)

The format of the meetings varied somewhat. Generally, however, federal government officials first gave presentations on the key elements of the GATS, followed by questions and discussion. Some participants also submitted written statements.¹

Schedule of Consultation Meetings

June 23	Halifax
June 26	Calgary
June 27	Regina
June 28	Winnipeg
June 29	Toronto
September 5	Whitehorse
September 7	Vancouver
September 8	Yellowknife
September 18	St. John's
September 19	Fredericton
September 20	Charlottetown
October 11	Montréal

PRESENTATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

The consultations began with a presentation by federal government officials, which highlighted the following points:

GENERAL ISSUES

1. *The objectives of the GATS:*

- the promotion of trade in services;
- progressive liberalization (increasing openness of markets to international trade in services);
- transparency of rules and regulations; and
- increasing the participation of developing countries.

2. *The GATS framework of rules and disciplines*, which is being developed to facilitate progressive liberalization of trade while respecting the right of countries to regulate in pursuit of domestic policy objectives.

¹ Appendix A gives a list of participants, noting those that made written submissions. For copies, contact them directly.