

## **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 focused on export development is the International Trade Personnel Program. This federal-provincial initiative links export-focused 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 \$7,500 for one year, to a maximum of \$37,500 per graduate over the 3 year period. For more information, contact:

### **Western Economic Diversification Canada**

The Cargill Building  
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Suite 712  
P.O. Box 777  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2L4  
Tel.: (204) 983-4472  
Fax: (204) 983-4694

## **EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (EDC)**

EDC is a customer-driven, financial services corporation dedicated to helping Canadian businesses succeed in the global marketplace. EDC provides a wide range of risk management services, including insurance, financing and guarantees to Canadian exporters and their customers around the world.

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. Exporters can call (613) 598-2860 for more information.

Smaller exporters, with annual export sales under C \$1 million, should call the Emerging Exporter Team at 1-800-850-9626.

Exporters in the information technology sector can call EDC's Information Technologies Team at (613) 598-6891.

For information on the full range of EDC services, contact any of the following EDC offices:

### **Ottawa**

Export Development Corporation  
151 O'Connor Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 1K3  
Tel.: (613) 598-2500  
Fax: (613) 237-2690

### **Vancouver**

Export Development Corporation  
One Bentall Centre  
505 Burrard Street  
Suite 1030  
Vancouver, BC V7X 1M5  
Tel.: (604) 666-6234  
Fax: (604) 666-7550