

Members of SAGIT, on the other hand, have been chosen for their expertise and knowledge in their particular sector. They will speak as representatives of that sector.

Sectoral Advisory Groups in International Trade include the following:

- agriculture, food and beverage
- fish and fish products
- minerals and metals
- energy products and services
- chemicals and petrochemicals
- forest products
- industrial, marine and rail equipment
- automotive and aerospace
- apparel and fur
- textiles, footwear, and leather
- consumer and household products
- communications, computer equipment and services
- financial services
- general services
- arts and cultural industries

#### International Trade Issues

The Minister for International Trade and the Department of External Affairs are responsible on behalf of the Government for a wide range of policies and programs governing economic and trade relations with other countries. The Minister and the Department are responsible for the administration of legislation governing international trade. These responsibilities are carried out with the purpose of providing the framework for the conduct of Canadian business internationally and assistance to the Canadian private sector in selling their products and services in other countries.

This objective is achieved in a variety of ways including discussions and negotiations with other national governments. The particular issues to be pursued with other governments in multilateral and bilateral fora are determined by what priorities and trade-offs best serve the Canadian economy and particular sectors within the economy. It is of vital importance to the Government to have the benefit at all times of advice and information from the private sector as to their needs, interests and priorities as the basis for determining the policies and programs of the government.