

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- ° In reaching its decision to commence negotiations on trade issues with the United States, the government has considered carefully the results of extensive consultations with the private sector and the provincial governments, as well as the recommendations of the Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations, (the Hockin Committee) and the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada (the Macdonald Commission).
- ° Following publication of the Discussion Paper "How to Secure and Enhance Canadian Access to Export Markets" in early 1985, the Minister for International Trade held meetings in 15 cities across Canada, including Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, London, Kitchener, Toronto, Sudbury, Montreal, Quebec City, Moncton, Halifax, Charlottetown and St. John's. During his tour, undertaken between March 18 and May 3, 1985, the Minister had confidential talks with private sector representatives (including large and small business and labour), attended public meetings and gave speeches to business groups. The Minister also met with his provincial counterparts in their respective provinces and in Vancouver at a Federal-Provincial Trade Ministers Conference. Private meetings were held with regional labour leaders in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal.
- ° During the month of May, the Minister for International Trade met privately with 16 national trade associations, (including the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Canadian Export Association, the Business Council on National Issues; the Canadian Federation of Agriculture; the Fisheries Council of Canada); five cultural associations (including the Canadian Film and TV Association, the Association of Canadian Publishers and the Association du disque et de l'industrie de spectacle québécois); the Canadian Petrochemical Producers Association, the Canadian Association of Consumers, and the Canadian Labour Congress.