

TRADE COMMISSIONER SERVICE CENTENARY

1894 - 1994

Canada is one of the countries most reliant on trade, with exports accounting for over 25 per cent of our GDP. One of our most trusted avenues for assisting our exporters sell to every corner of the world has been the Trade Commissioner Service (TCS).

Today, trade commissioners are working in close to 130 Canadian trade offices around the world, helping Canadian exporters and investors find new markets for their products and services. As a matter of fact, the TCS is recognized as one of the best in the world. This represents quite an achievement for a service that is only 100 years young.

Origin of the Trade Commissioner Service

The roots of the TCS actually go back more than 100 years. It was in the winter of 1889 that the Department of Finance began to help Canadians market their products abroad by issuing a *Commercial Bulletin*. The first issues described opportunities for selling Canadian products to the British -- from eggs, butter and cheese, to fruit and