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Small Business Access Centre Outaouais 259 Saint-Joseph Boulevard Suite 202 Hull PQ J8Y 6T1 Tel.: (819) 994-7442 Fax: (819) 994-7846

Small Business Access Centre Quebec City/Chaudière/Appalaches 905 Dufferin Avenue Second Floor Quebec City, PQ G1R 5M6 Tel.: (418) 648-4826 Fax: (418) 648-7291

Small Business Access Centre Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean 170 Saint-Joseph Street South Suite 203 Alma, PQ G8B 3E8 Tel.: (418) 668-3084 Fax: (418) 668-7584

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 C \$7,500 for one year, to a maximum of C \$37,500 per graduate over the three-year period. For more information, contact:

Western Economic Diversification Canada

The Cargill Building 240 Graham Avenue Suite 712 P.O. Box 777 Winnipeg, MB R3C 2LA Tel.: (204) 983-4472 Fax: (204) 983-4694

