

## *The Economic Summit*

The annual Economic Summit is the most visible element of a broader process of international consultation and cooperation in the management of the world economy. Summit discussions are closely linked to work done in other international forums, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Group of Seven Finance Ministers (G-7).

Through these institutions governments seek to manage an increasingly interdependent world economy. The "road map" from last year's Venice Summit to Toronto is defined by the major meetings of these international economic institutions:

- Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting, Bridgetown, Barbados (September 23-24, 1987);
- IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings, Washington (September 29 to October 1, 1987);
- Annual Session of the GATT Contracting Parties, Geneva (December 1-3, 1987);
- Cairns Group of Agriculture Ministers Meeting, Bariloche, Argentina (February 24-26, 1988);
- Group of Seven Finance Ministers (G-7) Meeting, Washington (April 13, 1988);
- Quadrilateral Trade Ministers Meeting, April Point, British Columbia (April 15-17, 1988);
- OECD Ministerial Meeting, Paris (May 18-19, 1988).

The issues on the Summit agenda are also reviewed at several advance meetings of personal representatives of the Summit leaders (the "sherpas"). The sherpas, through their preparatory meetings, seek out areas of agreement that may form the elements of a summit consensus approach on the main issues. Prime Minister Mulroney's Personal Representative is Dr. Sylvia Ostry, who is also Canada's Ambassador for Multilateral Trade Negotiations.