

IX. Export Development Assistance

The review emphasizes that export development assistance programs are not substitutes for the competitiveness (in terms of price, quality, service, etc.) of Canadian producers. Nonetheless, there is a need for concentrated and more coordinated efforts by federal and provincial governments with the accent on growth markets and competitive sectors of the Canadian economy. The Government intends to continue to give high priority to export development assistance and has taken decisions which will enable our financing organizations to respond more flexibly and more quickly to competitive situations. At the same time, the Government intends actively to pursue efforts to contain competition for government-sponsored export credits within multilaterally agreed guidelines. It is not in Canada's interest to become involved in a subsidy war with our major competitors.

X. Future Consultations

The government intends to continue to work more closely with the provinces and with the private sector to ensure that we have a clear consensus on trade policy, one which will stimulate a healthy economy and create needed jobs. A successful trade performance is vital to all regions and sectors of Canada and should not be undermined by partisan or short-term approaches. It is essential that all Canadians and all levels of government work hand in hand to achieve a tougher and more competitive economy and to ensure that trade continues as a main engine of growth.