

Government Co-ordination and Co-operation

Better co-ordination and harmonization between governments is critical to Canada's international business development efforts. Clearly, federal and provincial governments must work in partnership with each other — and the private sector — if programs to promote Canada's success in world markets are to be effective. An important objective will be to increase efficiency through enhanced co-operation among all levels of government.

- **Internal Trade Agreement** — If Canadian firms are to compete successfully in international markets, Canada's domestic and regulatory regimes must nurture and support competitive advantage. The federal government will work with provincial governments to implement and improve the Internal Trade Agreement to eliminate barriers to trade, investment and mobility in Canada. (The Agreement was signed by the First Ministers in July 1994.) Working with all parties concerned, the Government will seek to broaden the scope of the Agreement by extending its provisions to Crown Corporations and the municipal, academic institutions, schools and hospital sectors. To facilitate the streamlining of regulations and the reduction of compliance burden on companies across provinces, the Government will also explore the merits of a federally-led intergovernmental initiative on regulatory reform.
- **Trade Team Canada** — To minimize overlap and duplication among governments, encourage greater economy and efficiency of the use of public resources, and provide a better level of service for private-sector clients, the Government will promote a "Team Canada" approach to international business development. A major element of this approach, as recommended in the recent International Business Development Review, will be to pursue efforts to integrate the representation of

the federal and provincial governments outside Canada. The Government will also work with provincial governments to establish integrated "one-stop shops" for all federal and provincial international business development activities domestically.

- **International Trade Business Plan** — The Government will strengthen The ITBP by encouraging greater, direct participation by industry and fuller participation by provincial governments. It will also move to directly link the ITBP to government resource allocation decisions, as recommended in the recent International Business Development Review. Finally, it will ensure more rigorous year-over-year follow-up to the ITBP planning exercise, both to measure the degree to which priorities match actual undertakings, and to measure progress made toward achieving strategic objectives over time.

International Science and Technology Objectives

The development and acquisition of best-practice process and product technologies is critical to ensuring that Canadian firms are competitive in world markets. As globalization of the world economy proceeds, and the importance of science and technology (S&T) to competitiveness grows, it is essential that firms have access to world-class technologies. As well, international collaboration in research and development (R&D) by both the private and public sectors is increasingly important for Canada to attain its economic and social development objectives. Current priorities include:

- **Canadian Technology Network** — The Canadian Technology Network is being established to provide Canadian SMEs, especially in manufacturing and related service industries, with access to the technologies and technology management information and advice they need to compete in world markets. International sourcing of technologies will also