
G. NEXT STEPS

I. Introduction

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in conjunction with other departments and organizations has planned a series of events designed to bring into practice the strategies discussed within this document. These represent the first of many such efforts devised to improve socio-economic relations between Canada and India.

II. Visits

A number of high level visits between Canada and India have taken place in the last year and a half including the visits to India by the Canadian Minister of International Trade and by the Canadian Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) as well as the visits to Canada by the Indian Minister for Telecommunications, the Indian Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the Indian Minister for Finance. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade intends to continue to encourage the exchange of high-level visits between Canada and India. We will work with our provincial counterparts to encourage the exchange of visits between senior officials of the Canadian provinces and the Indian states. In addition, we will work with our counterparts in India to encourage and arrange sector-specific trade missions.

III. Information Dissemination

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has been working to expand our India database. We have been preparing a variety of publications to assist Canadian businesses in their preparation for entry into the Indian market. DFAIT has commissioned a number of studies on priority sectors of the Indian market which are available through the DFAIT Bulletin Board, FaxLink service and the Internet. New sectoral studies will be added periodically throughout the year. In addition, sectoral newsletters prepared by our Trade Commissioners in India will be posted on a regular basis. DFAIT will continue to produce relevant and timely publications to be made available through the above sources.

IV. Seminars

Organizations such as the Conference Board of Canada, the Canada-India Business Council and the Asia Pacific Foundation will continue to present timely and informative seminars on the Indian market.