

PREFACE

This document is designed to serve as a focus for consultations on the vital need for effective export financing support for Canadian business and industry. These consultations will be carried forward as part of the broad national consultative process set in motion with the release of a major document "A New Direction for Canada: An Agenda for Economic Renewal" on November 8, 1984.

The agenda paper identified a number of issues and questions regarding government programs for insuring, guaranteeing and financing of exports as well as programs involved in the direct sale of goods abroad. The consultations will examine the factors underlying these issues as well as possible options the government may consider. All interested parties are invited to respond to the discussion of issues and the directions for change outlined in this paper.

It is our hope that Canadians will take an active part in the discussion of the issues in an open dialogue with the government and their fellow citizens -- a dialogue dedicated to finding better ways for all of us to work and prosper together in the months and years ahead. Such open dialogue will make a positive contribution to the First Ministers Conference on the economy in February and the National Economic Conference in March.



Hon. Michael Wilson
Minister of Finance



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