

(f) ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1987 to foster, in a strategic partnership with the people of Atlantic Canada, the long-term development of the region through a renewal of the Atlantic entrepreneurial spirit. The Agency has a particular responsibility to encourage the development of new, small and medium-sized enterprises within Atlantic Canada.

Trade has always been a major contributor to wealth and job creation in Atlantic Canada and ACOA recognizes trade development as a major tool for the implementation of its mandate. To this effect, a task force on trade and entrepreneurship has been established. In addition, a Trade Working Group has been established recently to deal with all trade related matters and issues. The Working Group has representation from each ACOA office as follows:

Head Office: Michael MacDonald, Chairperson (506) 858-3803
 P.Y. (Pat) Chiasson (506) 857-6981
 Millie Poirier (506) 857-7827

Ottawa Office: Menna Weese (613) 954-0437
 Charlottetown Office: David Cook (902) 566-7213
 Fredericton Office: Elliot Keizer (506) 452-3263
 Halifax Office: John Young (902) 426-9642
 St. John's Office: Adele Poynter (709) 772-4126

The immediate priorities include the development of a trade strategy, including an action plan, a research program and the articulation of ACOA's position with respect to subsidies and countervail for both Multilateral Trade Negotiations under GATT and for the purpose of Article 1907 of the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement.

For any additional information, you may contact any member of the Working Group as listed above.