

Q5. What happens to non-rotational employees from affected divisions?

A5. Each employee will be informed personally as to whether his or her position is being cut. Many employees have been informed already and others will be informed as soon as final decisions are made. Those individuals whose positions are being cut will be contacted by a personnel specialist from APSO and advised of all options available under WFAD. Employees are to continue to report to work as usual after the changes are announced. It is important to note that no one is surplus unless and until she or he is so notified in writing. Employees who become surplus have employment protection under WFAD.

Q6. How will this improve the department's effectiveness and quality of service to government and to the public?

A6. In the trade area, departmental structures will be streamlined. The integration of planning and consultation functions within the new International Business Development Branch will make the Branch more responsive to private-sector needs. Its capacity to develop trade instruments--to assist Canadian companies in expanding internationally--and to set priorities will be enhanced. The placing of trade policy within a new, expanded Economic and Trade Policy Branch will concentrate trade and economic policy in one place. These moves will improve the management of files dealing with international trade and agreements (eg. NAFTA, GATT) and enhance service by putting major elements of trade and related economic policy into one branch.

The integration of policy planning with foreign assessment operations will both strengthen the department's abilities in this area and provide more flexibility in dealing with emerging issues. This means more effective service for government clients who depend on our policy advice and for interested clients in the public who seek topical information on international relations and who may also be among those groups and individuals (e.g. NGOs and academics) who consult the department from time to time. The addition of analysts to the Operations Centre within the new Security and Intelligence Bureau will enhance the department's ability to anticipate and deal with crises and thus increase our effectiveness and relevance for clients both inside and outside government.

Q7. Where will the T branch sectoral analysis be performed from now on?

A7. The sectoral function is being refocused on interdepartmental co-ordination of trade development through the International Trade Business Plan (ITBP) and on consultations with private-sector clients through an enhanced International Trade Advisory Committee/Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (ITAC/SAGIT) process on trade development issues and priorities. Officers in the newly established Sectoral Liaison Secretariat will tap into sectoral expertise in other government departments, agencies or outside groups and associations as appropriate.