

TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Canadians are committed to the sustainable use of renewable resources so that the ability of future generations to meet their development needs will not be compromised.
- Canada is also an important trading nation and much of our trade is in environmentally sensitive natural resource industries. Since both the environment and trade are so important to Canadians, there is growing interest in developing a harmonious relationship between environmental and trade policies.
- During the negotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the North American Agreement on Environmental Co-operation, many elements of this relationship were fleshed out. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries have also created a Joint Session of Trade and Environment Experts to analyze the most difficult facets of the trade and environment relationship. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has had a Working Group actively engaged in examination of several trade rules-related elements. And most recently, negotiators of the Uruguay Round agreed to settle on an institutional structure and a work program to begin to address trade and environment issues within the new World Trade Organization.