

In May, we appointed a Special Coordinator for Market Access Consultations, Mr. Tom Burns, former President of the Canadian Export Association. Mr. Burns and his team have met with close to a hundred different associations and companies.

We also consulted provincial governments, first at the February Conference of First Ministers, and then in May at a meeting of federal and provincial trade ministers in Vancouver. Another meeting of trade ministers is being held today in Halifax, and trade issues will be on the agenda again when First Ministers meet next month.

A Special Joint Committee of Parliament held public hearings through the summer on Canada-U.S. Trade. We want more debate in Parliament, and more consultations in the country.

We are establishing immediately a permanent International Trade Advisory Committee, to provide a constant two-way flow of information and advice between the Government and the private sector on international trade matters.