

IF YOU ARE DOING BUSINESS ABROAD, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU...

In support of the Canadian government's strong commitment to ensure that all Canadians continue to have input into the country's overall trade agenda, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has established broad-based consultation mechanisms. Canada's experience has shown that consultations, whether at the domestic or the multilateral level, greatly reinforce public awareness and understanding of the importance of trade.

These mechanisms include:

- Federal/Provincial/Territorial Committee on Trade (C-Trade);
- consultations with municipalities;
- sectoral advisory groups on international trade (SAGITs);
- multi-stakeholder consultation; and
- public opinion research.

Canadians are also encouraged to use the Department's Trade Negotiations and Agreements Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nacl), where up-to-date information on Canada's trade policy agenda is posted and input is sought. The Web site contains an extensive consultation section ("It's Your Turn") that enables Canadians to send in their comments on Canada's trade policy agenda and stay informed of specific consultation initiatives launched by the government.

We particularly welcome direct input from Canadian exporters and investors describing barriers they have encountered in foreign markets. Individual companies, industry associations and other interested organizations are encouraged to contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade with specific information on tariff or non-tariff barriers and other business irritants. Business people are invited to report any problems they are experiencing by communicating in strictest confidence to:

"Foreign Trade and Investment Barriers Alert"
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2
Fax: (613) 992-6002
e-mail: Consultations@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

The Department also regularly consults Canadians on international business development through a variety of means. For instance, the Trade Commissioner Service has regular meetings with national, regional and sectoral industry and trade associations, as well as with provinces and territories, to seek their views on how to improve the delivery of its programs and services. Moreover, several of the Department's trade promotion initiatives are undertaken jointly with industry and trade associations. Business people are also encouraged to remain in touch with the Department regarding market access and other issues through its Web sites (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tradef/menu-e.asp or www.exportsource.ca). These sites contain additional information on many of the issues covered in this document.