

### Trade-Related Intellectual Property

As one of the areas being brought into the GATT for the first time, the agreement on trade-related intellectual property contains the most comprehensive global agreement to date on intellectual property.

The Uruguay Round commits each government to protect and enforce intellectual property rights. The agreement includes a set of standards in the areas of copyright, trademarks, geographical indications, integrated circuit designs and trade secrets. It also allows for access to the dispute-settlement provisions under the MTO. Effective protection of intellectual property provides certainty for the export of Canadian high-technology products and artistic works and also creates a better investment climate in Canada for research and development facilities.

### Dispute Settlement

The GATT rules on dispute resolution have been strengthened and their operation streamlined through the creation of an integrated dispute-settlement mechanism. Dispute resolutions will be accelerated, with a strict time limit established for conclusion of the process once it is under way. Other improvements to the rules will reduce the ability of any one member to block the adoption of a panel or appellate body report. Members also make a commitment to avoid using unilateral retaliation.

### Multilateral Trade Organization

The Uruguay Round developed a separate agreement that will establish the MTO, an international body that will oversee and co-ordinate the GATT and all agreements concluded under the Uruguay Round. The MTO will be overseen by a Ministerial Conference at least every two years.

A General Council will be established to oversee the operation of the GATT and will include a Dispute Settlement Body and a Trade Policy Review Mechanism. The MTO will also co-ordinate the functioning of the Goods Council, the Services Council and the Intellectual Property Council.

The agreement enshrines the Trade Policy Review Mechanism, the multilateral surveillance system in operation since the 1988 Montreal Mid-Term Review of the Uruguay Round. The mechanism helps keep GATT members informed of changes in each other's trade policies and obliges members to explain those changes. Canadian trade policies have been reviewed twice and Canada has participated in the reviews of the policies of many of its trading partners.