

An alternative is to seek ways in which an international agreement can be achieved to limit the use of official credits for commodities. This is now being pursued in international bodies, particularly the OECD.

H) PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The Challenge

To ensure that federal and provincial government export financing programs act in a mutually reinforcing manner so that Canada's overall resources in this area are most efficiently employed.

Background

Over the past few years the provincial governments, especially Quebec, Ontario and Alberta, and provincial hydro companies have taken a much more active role in developing and supporting exports. This role has been limited for the most part to market identification and promotion, consulting services and feasibility studies. A number of provinces have established offices abroad in major markets for these purposes.

Some provinces, again notably Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, have established export financing guarantee and performance guarantee programs. These programs have the potential to duplicate those offered by federal government programs.

Option for Consideration

Enhanced Federal/Provincial Co-operation: Both levels of government have an interest in ensuring that limited funds available for export support are used effectively. More frequent and enhanced consultation between federal and provincial governments could be useful in avoiding overlap or competition between the various agencies involved.