

review have the benefit of input from negotiators, provincial representatives and environmental organizations.

As provided for in its mandate, Committee representatives met regularly with key members of the NAFTA negotiating team. These meetings had four principal objectives:

1. To obtain detailed information and analyses on the issues and options under negotiation;
2. To provide an initial screening for potential environmental implications of the Agreement;
3. To heighten the negotiators' awareness of environmental concerns; and
4. To discuss the potential environmental effects of the different negotiating options.

In addition, Committee members continuously reviewed the evolving draft of the NAFTA and provided comments for Memoranda to Cabinet on the environmental content of the negotiations.

The Committee met with officials responsible for drafting the Review of U.S.-Mexico Environmental Issues as well as with Mexico's Deputy Minister of the Environment. It collected and reviewed literature from both Canadian and foreign sources on the potential relationship between trade and the environment. Finally, it engaged in the consultative process described below.

D. CONSULTATION

The federal government established an extensive stakeholder consultation process for its trade-related activities. This process provided environmental input for the NAFTA negotiations and for the environmental review.

Federal and provincial ministers and officials met regularly to discuss the status of the NAFTA negotiations, including the environmental content of the discussions. The Chairperson of the NAFTA Environmental Review Committee was in frequent contact with provincial officials.

Representatives from industry, environmental organizations, labour and academia were consulted through the ITAC and the 15 SAGITs. The ITAC and SAGITs report directly to the Minister for International Trade. During the course of the negotiations, senior NAFTA negotiators provided these important trade advisory bodies with frequent status reports on the trilateral discussions, including information on their environmental content.

The NAFTA Environmental Review Committee undertook several specific initiatives to obtain input from non-government sources, including environmentalists, who made a positive and constructive contribution throughout the negotiations. All ITAC and SAGIT chairpersons and environmental representatives were invited to meet with the Chief Negotiator and senior negotiators on February 25, 1992. This meeting included presentations and discussions on the potential environmental content of the NAFTA and on the anticipated process and scope of the environmental review.