

OPENING MARKETS

World Trade Organization

*A new organization, more powerful
than the General Agreement on
Tariffs and Trade,
now oversees the world's trading system.*

A rules-based world trading system is vital to Canada. Without rules, there would be little protection for small- and medium-sized nations, against unilateral trade measures taken by larger nations.

*"We welcome the work
on the relation between trade
and environment in the new WTO.
We call for intensified efforts
to improve our understanding
of new issues including employment
and labour standards and
their implications for trade policies."*

Communiqué of 1994 G-7 Economic Summit

So it is that Canada has always been a strong supporter of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). In fact, the GATT has been the cornerstone of Canadian trade policy since the late 1940s. Through the stronger trade rules made possible (or provided by) the GATT, Canada is assured

greater access to world markets. Selling Canadian products in world markets can contribute to stronger domestic growth and more jobs.

In April 1994, 124 governments signed the Marrakesh agreement to establish the World Trade Organization (WTO). This concluded the seven-year Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The WTO succeeded the GATT on January 1, 1995 as the principal forum of the rules-based world trading system. Canada played a major role in developing the WTO as an institution that encompasses the interests of all nations.

DIVERSITY

Forest products, grain, and oil and gas are the big Canadian trading items, but thousands of smaller transactions take place daily. According to Statistics Canada, in 1992 we sold \$3000 worth of doors to Cuba, \$50 000 worth of mustard seed to Morocco, and \$98 million worth of mineral water worldwide.
