Industry, Science and Technology Canada, with its network of regional offices, has responsibility for sectoral and regional investment activities in Canada and abroad.

Investment Canada coordinates the federal government's investment activities and provides investment-related services which complement the activities of other departments.

The Investment Development Program is international in scope though it targets specific countries and regions. Its activities not only focus on Canada's traditional foreign investment sources — the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, France, and the Netherlands — but also on new or non-traditional sources of investment in Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific Rim. In fact, non-traditional regions are now the fastest growing sources of foreign investment in Canada.

The IDP also targets specific industrial sectors. In keeping with its objective of encouraging investment which brings to Canada new technology and expertise, the IDP focuses its efforts on technology-intensive sectors. To promote investment in these sectors, the three IDP partner departments work closely together with provincial and municipal governments and the private sector to identify Canada's advanced technology capabilities and requirements.