



communiqué

N^o: 21
No.:

February 3, 1986.

MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE ANNOUNCES
THE FORMATION OF THE SECTORAL ADVISORY GROUPS
AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE (SAGIT)

The Minister for International Trade, James Kelleher, announced today the formation of 14 Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGIT). The SAGIT will complement the work of the International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC), chaired by Mr. Walter Light, which Mr. Kelleher announced on January 9. The first meeting of ITAC took place in Ottawa, on January 21.

In announcing the SAGIT, Mr. Kelleher said, "These groups will be extremely important to the government in providing a sectoral viewpoint on all trade matters and in particular on upcoming trade

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negotiations". Mr. Kelleher indicated that this structure is not cast in stone and that he expects, in light of experience and in consultation with the chairpersons and others, to find that adjustments to this structure may be required in order to ensure adequate representation of views from all sectors.

As with ITAC, the SAGIT will report to the Minister for International Trade, James Kelleher.

The chairpersons and members of the SAGIT will be appointed in the next few weeks following consultations with the provinces and the private sector.

Attached are:

- List of the Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGIT)
- Background information on the international trade advisory committee system

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SECTORAL ADVISORY GROUPS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Agriculture, Food and Beverage

Fish and Fish Products

Mining and Metals

Energy Products and Services

Chemicals, Petrochemicals, Plastics
and Rubber

Forest Products

Industrial, Marine and Rail Equipment

Automotive and Aerospace

Textiles, Clothing, Footwear and Leather

Consumer and Household Products

Communications, Computer Equipment and
Services

Financial Services

General Services

Information, Arts and Entertainment
Industries

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADVISORY STRUCTURE

The role of the system is to provide a two-way flow of information and advice between the government and the private sector on international trade matters. The advisory committee system will address international trade access and marketing issues, relating to both multilateral and bilateral trade matters. It will be called upon to advise the government on Canadian objectives, priorities and strategies for multilateral and bilateral trade policy issues and negotiations. In addition, it will be asked to assess the impact of international trade negotiations and developments.

The international trade advisory structure has two components. The International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC) will deal with broad national issues relating to international trade access and marketing matters. It is made up of prominent members of the business, labour, consumer, academic, research and cultural communities. The members of ITAC serve in their individual capacities, not as representatives of specific entities or interest groups. The ITAC is chaired by Mr. Walter Light, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Northern Telecom Ltd.

The other component will consist of 14 Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGIT). The size and composition of each group will depend upon the individual sector. The SAGIT will interact with the Government to ensure sectoral views are fully taken into account in international trade matters. The Sectoral Advisory Groups will be expected to be the depository of expertise and knowledge in their respective sectors, as well as on trade matters, and the participants will be expected to provide advice as representatives of their sectors or interests.

The advisory committee system will play a vital role in the Canada/United States initiative as well as the up-coming GATT multilateral trade negotiations. The ITAC and SAGIT will work closely with Mr. Simon Reisman the Ambassador and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Trade Negotiations. The ITAC and SAGIT will report to the Minister for International Trade, James Kelleher.