

**Gender Equality, Trade and Development at the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference,
Cancun, Mexico, September 11, 2003**

On behalf of the Canadian Delegation to the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference I am pleased to invite you to a panel discussion on gender equality, trade policy and development.

The ground-breaking WTO Public Symposium session on "Women as Economic Players in Sustainable Development" held in Geneva last June highlighted the significant contributions of women to international trade and the differential impact of trade liberalization on women and men: both the benefits and the adverse effects. Building on the momentum created by the Geneva Symposium session, the panel discussions in Cancun will present a welcome opportunity to advance our understanding of the ways in which women and men are impacted differently by trade, and how best to address these differences in order to ensure that trade benefits all people equally.

To guide and stimulate discussions, the Canadian research organization, North-South Institute has prepared an independent discussion paper which addresses issues related to gender equality, trade and development. The paper will be available on site.

The event will take place:

Thursday, September 11, 2003

11:00- 13:00

Madrid I , Krystal Hotel

Cancun

Program

- Opening remarks by chair Patricia (Paddy) Torsney, Member of Parliament, Canada
- Presentations:
 - Honourable Susan Whelan, Minister for International Cooperation, Canada,
 - Honourable Aichatou Agne Pouye, Minister of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and of Commerce, Senegal
 - Ann Weston, Vice President of The North-South Institute, Canada
- Questions from the audience and discussions