

ACOA 2007 Report on Plans and Priorities

Horizontal Initiatives

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International Business Development Program (IBDP)

also/formerly known as International Business Development Agreement (IBDA)

1. Horizontal Initiative:		2. Lead Department:
International Business Development Program (IBDP) also/formerly known as International Business Development Agreement (IBDA)		ACOA
3. Start Date:	4. End Date:	5. Total Federal Funding:
April 11, 2005	March 31, 2010	\$7.0 million
6. Description:		
<p>The International Business Development Program (IBDP) involves four Atlantic provincial governments and three federal departments: ACOA, International Trade Canada (ITCan) and Industry Canada (IC). The previous International Business Development Agreement (IBDA) was first signed in May 1994 for three years and \$3 million, and was extended in March 1997 for a further three years and \$2 million. A second extension, for \$8 million, involved the seven partners in international business development for a further four years from 2000 to 2004.</p> <p>The new \$10-million IBDP will continue the work of the partners until 2010. Funding for the agreement is shared 70/30 by the federal and provincial governments. The IBDP's mandate is: to undertake specific measures to optimize regional co-ordination on a pan-Atlantic scale and combine limited resources to co-ordinate trade-related activities. The commitment to this IBDP, with the increased funding allocation, attests to both the IBDA's positive results and its significance for the future of the region's international business development. See http://www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca/e/ibda/index.shtml.</p>		
7. Shared Outcomes:		
<p>The shared outcomes for the IBDP are as follows, and support ACOA's priority outcome for trade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the number of new exporters; • existing exporters reporting sales to new markets; and • existing exporters reporting increased sales to existing markets. <p>Since the original IBDA commenced in 1994, the Agency and its partners have administered over 177 projects involving some 2,500 Atlantic Canadian companies. The IBDA assisted 172 companies to begin exporting, 313 exporters to increase their export sales, and 358 exporters to expand to new markets.</p>		
8. Governance Structure:		
ACOA is the lead organization for this initiative and houses the secretariat responsible for administering the agreement. A management committee made up of a representative from each of the partners is responsible for the planning and management of the agreement's programs and the evaluation of projects.		
9. Federal Partners involved in each program:		
ACOA – lead department International Trade Canada – non-funding partner Industry Canada – non-funding partner		
10. Program Name:	11. Total Federal Allocation	12. 2006-2007 Planned Spending
International Business Development Program (IBDP)	\$7.0 million	\$1.8 million
13. Expected Results for the life of the agreement (2005 through 2010): <i>Data collection continues for two years after the term of the agreement.</i>		

<i>Therefore, the target date to fully achieve these expected results is in 2012.</i>		
Increase the number of new exporters		40 companies
Existing exporters reporting sales to new markets		75 companies
Existing exporters reporting increased sales to existing markets		150 companies
14. Results to be Achieved by Non-federal Partners:		
Same as above.		
15. Contact Information:	16. Approved by:	17. Date Approved:
Serge Langis, Director General, Trade and Investment, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency Telephone: (506) 851-6240 E-mail: serge.langis@acoa-apec.ca	Serge Langis, Director General, Trade and Investment	July 11, 2006

Team Canada Atlantic

1. Horizontal Initiative:		2. Lead Department:
Team Canada Atlantic		ACOA
3. Start Date:	4. End Date:	5. Total Federal Funding:
April 1999	March 2010	\$11.14 million
6. Description:		
<p>Team Canada Atlantic (TCA) is a partnership of ACOA and the four Atlantic provinces, with support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Industry Canada, Foreign Affairs Canada, and International Trade Canada. TCA is committed to strengthening the trade and investment relationship between Atlantic Canada and the United States. Since 1999, approximately \$5.37 million has been spent on TCA missions. Overall, mission participants reported actual sales in excess of \$36 million.</p> <p>The core of the TCA approach is the trade mission, which enables small and medium-sized businesses from across Atlantic Canada to meet with potential buyers, agents, distributors and strategic partners in the United States. The mission format features a comprehensive program that equips private sector participants with the knowledge, contacts and advice they require to make the best of their international opportunities before, during and after their venture abroad. Missions also provide the Government of Canada and the Atlantic provincial governments with crucial opportunities to promote the region as a tremendous location for foreign investment. www.teamcanadaatlantic.com</p>		
7. Shared Outcomes:		
<p>The Team Canada Atlantic (TCA) trade missions are focused on small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Atlantic Canada, and are intended to assist SMEs to increase exports and attract investments in key markets. The mission objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase export readiness for Atlantic Canadian SMEs; • develop new partnerships/alliances between Atlantic Canadian SMEs and companies in target markets; and • increase Atlantic Canadian SME export sales to new and established markets, as well as raise awareness of Atlantic Canada in these markets. <p>Team Canada Atlantic has completed 11 missions to United States markets, involving 359 companies and more than 2,950 business meetings, resulting in more than \$36 million in actual sales to date.</p>		
8. Governance Structure:		
<p>A management committee, comprising ACOA officials and members from each of the four provincial trade departments, is the decision-making body that directs and oversees the co-ordination and implementation of the TCA missions. The TCA organizing committee is responsible for the organization of the mission and includes representation from the four provincial trade departments in Atlantic Canada, Foreign Affairs Canada, International Trade Canada, Industry Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Team Canada Atlantic Secretariat. The secretariat, housed at ACOA, is responsible for the overall co-ordination and implementation of the TCA missions.</p>		
9. Federal Partners involved in each program:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACOA • Foreign Affairs Canada – non-funding partner • International Trade Canada – non-funding partner • Industry Canada – non-funding partner • Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) – \$6,000/mission • Team Canada – non-funding partner (<i>Led by the Prime Minister, the Minister for International Trade, provincial premiers and territorial government leaders, Team Canada missions are a unique partnership in Canada's international business development efforts to increase trade and create jobs</i>) 		

<i>and growth in Canada.)</i>		
10. Program Name:	11.Total Federal Allocation	12. 2006-2007 Planned Spending
Team Canada Atlantic	\$11.14 million: ACOA \$132,000: AAFC	\$828,970: ACOA \$12,000: AAFC
13. 2006-2007 Expected Results:		
Increased export-readiness for SMEs		60
Forecasted export sales by SMEs		\$20 million
Increased number of potential buyers in export markets		180
14. Results to be Achieved by Non-federal Partners:		
Not applicable.		
15. Contact Information:	16. Approved by:	17. Date Approved:
Serge Langis, Director General, Trade and Investment, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency Telephone: (506) 851-6240 E-mail: serge.langis@acoa-apec.gc.ca	Janice Goguen, A/Director General, Trade and Investment	January 20, 2006

Rural Development/Canadian Rural Partnership

(Lead department: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)

Given that a significant portion of the Atlantic region's population lives in rural areas (46.1%), as compared with a much smaller share (20.3%) of the Canadian population, the Government of Canada's rural policy is particularly relevant to Atlantic Canada. As such, ACOA will continue in 2006-2007 to develop and foster community partnerships, identify community economic development needs, and develop and implement flexible programming to address rural needs and encourage long-term employment and economic capacity building in rural communities. The Agency will also continue to work with other provincial and federal government departments to share information on rural issues and to identify ways to collaborate on rural development. More specifically:

- In New Brunswick, ACOA will continue to contribute to horizontal files such as immigration, youth, and broadband and, where appropriate, provide input to the National Rural Policy Framework.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, ACOA will work with its federal and provincial government partners to devise and implement a repopulation strategy, as well as research initiatives deemed appropriate for the province.
- In Nova Scotia, models of rural community capacity building will be tested through a participatory evaluation research process, e.g. HeartWood Model of Community Youth Development, Rural Knowledge Cluster, and Rural Philanthropy Network. The Coastal Communities Network will continue to be supported as the rural co-ordinating organization in Nova Scotia. Rural dialogues will continue to be held at the community and provincial levels in order to identify and corroborate emerging rural and coastal views, issues and priorities. Priorities include a provincial forum on rural repopulation and increasing the engagement of youth, First Nations and African Nova Scotians. Collaborative relationships will also be maintained with federal and provincial government departments and the Nova Scotia Sustainable Communities Initiative.
- In Prince Edward Island, ACOA will work with the other federal and provincial departments to focus on various priorities, such as rural youth (including support for the newly established P.E.I. Youth Network) and the repopulation of rural communities through youth attraction and retention, immigration and repatriation. In addition, ACOA and its partners will continue the dialogue with the island's rural communities for a better understanding of the province's rural issues and to better respond to rural community needs.

See the Canadian Rural Partnership website: http://www.rural.gc.ca/iwg_e.phtml

More information on all Government of Canada horizontal initiatives is available on the Treasury Board of Canada's website:

http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rma/eppi-ibdrp/hrdb-rhbd/profil_e.asp

Team Canada Inc.

(Lead department: International Trade Canada)

The horizontal initiative of Team Canada Inc. (TCI) is a partnership of federal, provincial and territorial governments and other partners to help Canadian businesses prepare for the global marketplace. Its purpose is to provide Canadian businesses with single-window access to fully integrated export services. TCI is a virtual organization, or service cluster, with no separate legal status.

TCI is the first stop en route to the information, skills and assistance an entrepreneur needs to make its export venture a success. TCI's wide range of tools is designed to help entrepreneurs become export-ready, develop their export potential, and expand into new markets. The initiative is seen as the mechanism for bringing about an integrated vision and strategy for international business development, encompassing trade development, market access, investment promotion, and international science and technology co-operation.

TCI is a cost-shared initiative, with each department/agency contributing a standard annual membership fee. ACOA currently sits on both TCI's management board and executive committee and, as such, assists in defining and implementing TCI's strategic goals and focus. Furthermore, ACOA continues to provide the front-line service of Team Canada Inc. through the Canada Business Service Centres throughout Atlantic Canada. In fielding front-line inquiries from potential exporters, export-ready and existing exporters in Atlantic Canada, the Agency continues to meet the goals of the initiative while developing Atlantic Canada's small and medium-sized enterprises and their growth potential.

See the Team Canada website:

http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/ac-ca/progs/rc-tr/progs/canada-inc/index_e.cfm

More information on all Government of Canada horizontal initiatives is available on the Treasury Board of Canada's website:

http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rma/eppi-ibdrp/hrdb-rhbd/profil_e.asp

Infrastructure Canada Program Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund

(Lead department: Infrastructure Canada)

Community-based infrastructure programs are implemented by ACOA in the Atlantic region. Provinces and municipalities are the managers of the projects. In most cases, the Government of Canada is matching the provincial contributions and generally providing up to one-third of the cost of infrastructure projects. Under these funds, Infrastructure Canada provides national co-ordination among delivery partners in the implementation of the projects. A series of infrastructure programs has been ongoing since 1994. Infrastructure programming in Atlantic Canada has been modelled on the federal/provincial COOPERATION Agreement approach by establishing joint cost-shared agreements between the federal government and each province.

In ACOA, the regional vice-presidents act as federal co-chairs on the federal-provincial infrastructure management committees. ACOA has worked hard over the last 11 years to develop a solid working arrangement with its provincial partners on infrastructure delivery, and remains committed to deliver on these important federal initiatives.

Infrastructure Canada Program (ICP)

Budget 2000 announced federal funding for \$2.05 billion nationally over five years for a new infrastructure program addressing water and wastewater systems, water management, solid waste management and recycling. The allocation formula is similar to the one used in the previous infrastructure program, being a weighted combination of population and unemployment; it has been broadly accepted and proven as an equitable allocation approach. The Atlantic region's share is \$183.775 million (approximately 9% of the \$2.05 billion national allocation). This program again seeks equitable participation from provincial and municipal levels of government. Thus, the total Atlantic investment is expected to be \$550 million over five years. As of December 2005, the ICP was 96% committed, with nearly 700 approved projects in the Atlantic region.

Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF)

Budget 2001 announced the creation of a \$2 billion strategic infrastructure fund. It is intended that this funding be targeted toward major infrastructure initiatives that cannot be dealt with under the current Infrastructure Canada Program. The CSIF has already identified matched investments in Atlantic Canada including complete twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway in New Brunswick; cleaning up St. John's Harbour; cleaning up Halifax Harbour; highway projects in Nova Scotia and in Prince Edward Island; waste treatment plant upgrades in Charlottetown and Summerside; and a central water system program in Stratford, PEI. The Atlantic federal share is \$345.5 million, including top-up funds approved in Budget 2003.

Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF)

Budget 2003 announced a \$2 billion top-up to the CSIF, along with a further \$1 billion Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. Eligible categories under the MRIF are essentially the same as the ICP, with some new categories, including public transit, local roads, cultural, recreation, tourism, environmental energy improvements and connectivity. As with previous Infrastructure programs, MRIF seeks equitable participation from provincial and municipal levels of government. The Atlantic federal share is \$116 million.

See the Infrastructure Canada website:

http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/funding/index_e.shtml

More information on all Government of Canada horizontal initiatives is available on the Treasury Board of Canada's website:

http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rma/eppi-ibdrp/hrdb-rhbd/profil_e.asp

U.S. Enhanced Representation Initiative

(Lead department: Foreign Affairs Canada)

The U.S. Enhanced Representation Initiative (ERI) is intended to strengthen political and economic relationships with the U.S.; increase trade, investment and technology exchange vis-à-vis the U.S.; increase public awareness in the U.S. of Canada and its values; and increase economic benefit to Canada by expanding its base of commercialization/adoption opportunities for innovative products and services in the U.S.

ERI Partners

- ACOA
- Foreign Affairs Canada
- International Trade Canada
- Industry Canada
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Canada Economic Development
- Western Economic Diversification
- National Research Council Canada

Central to the ERI is the expanded presence of Canadian offices in centres of economic and/or political importance. Between 2003 and 2008, Canadian U.S.-based staff will increase by 60 positions in emerging centres of political and economic power, primarily in the south and west. Moreover, the Agency will continue to actively promote the placement of Atlantic Canadian officers within U.S. posts to help raise Atlantic Canadian profile.

The management of the ERI partnership is responsible for Canada's advocacy and business development interests in all regions of the U.S. The President of ACOA represents Canada's regional development agencies on the deputy minister's steering committee. One of the committee's responsibilities is to ensure financial and personnel resource planning and allocation in support of the partnership mandate.

The Agency also plans to continue delivery of ERI-funded initiatives in the forthcoming year. Projects include sector-specific missions to selected U.S. markets, bringing buyers into the regions, and increasing awareness of the benefits of Atlantic Canada through focused U.S. promotional events for future foreign direct investment. From a human resources standpoint, ACOA will continue its approach to identifying and developing Agency personnel who are most apt to be considered for ERI postings at key U.S. market posts.

See the website:

http://w01.international.gc.ca/minpub/Publication.asp?publication_id=380348&Language=E

More information on all Government of Canada horizontal initiatives is available on the Treasury Board of Canada's website:

http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rma/eppi-ibdrp/hrdb-rhbd/profil_e.asp

Canada Business Service Centres

(Lead department: Industry Canada)

Entrepreneurs require access to a wide variety of business development tools and resources throughout all stages of the business life cycle, from the time they are thinking about setting up a new business, to the time they are planning for growth and expansion. The Government of Canada provides this service through the Canada Business Network, with ACOA acting as the federal managing partner for the Canada Business Service Centres (CBSCs) in Atlantic Canada.

The objective of this network of CBSCs is to improve service to small business and start-up entrepreneurs by providing comprehensive information and referrals on government services, programs and compliance requirements for both the federal and provincial orders of government. Serving the business community and entrepreneurs of Canada for over 11 years, the CBSCs reduce the complexity of dealing with various levels of government by serving as a central resource for Canadian business.

In Atlantic Canada, CBSCs are located in each provincial capital city, with access being further enhanced through 108 access sites across the region, including 43 Aboriginal Business Service Network sites. Clients may access the CBSCs' services via their website (below), by calling their toll-free number, or by visiting one of their locations.

Nationally, the centres are managed on behalf of the federal government by ACOA, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, and Industry Canada using a horizontal team/committee known as the Managing Partners Committee. As a committee member, ACOA is responsible for managing the CBSCs in Atlantic Canada. A national secretariat, resident in Industry Canada, provides overall co-ordination for Canada Business, and supports the roles of the federal managing partners.

See the Canada Business website:

<http://canadabusiness.gc.ca/gol/cbec/site.nsf/en/index.html>.

More information on all Government of Canada horizontal initiatives is available on the Treasury Board of Canada's website:

http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rma/eppi-ibdrp/hrdb-rhbd/profil_e.asp

Canadian Agriculture and Food International (CAFI) Program

Within the international strategy of the Agricultural Policy Framework, the CAFI program provides funds for branding and market development initiatives to industry associations and commodity groups.

CAFI is a cost-shared contribution program designed to support Canadian agri-food and seafood industry activities in areas of branding and market development, trade advocacy and technical marketing. The objective of the CAFI program is to support industry action to deliver on a comprehensive national strategy to gain and expand international recognition and enhance market opportunities for Canadian agriculture, food and seafood products.

The program is designed to support industry in building long-term strategies that will position them for success in key markets and respond to increasing consumer demands and global competition. It helps industry to improve access to global markets for Canadian agricultural, food and seafood products and services, and strengthens the sector's capacity to market products abroad.

Funding for the program is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. ACOA is a voting member on the strategy steering committee, and acts as a proponent for products sourced from Atlantic Canada. The committee approves funding allocation to long-term development strategies and provides recommendations on policies that impact across teams and/or programs. ACOA plays a key advocacy role in the representation of Atlantic Canadian interests.

See the CAFI website at: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/int/cafi-picaa/>

Aboriginal Economic Development

The responsibility for Aboriginal economic development is shared with other federal government departments, such as Indian and Northern Affairs, Fisheries and Oceans, Industry, and Human Resources and Skills Development. ACOA will continue to make progress at identifying increased opportunities for Aboriginal economic development, and in developing a more co-ordinated team-like approach, both internally and in partnership with other federal departments sharing the mandate. ACOA will use the flexibility within its existing programs to invest in those priority areas jointly identified by government, Aboriginal businesses and communities: the development of management skills; productivity improvements; market expansions; innovation; and access to financing. The Agency will work toward increasing its participation in federal co-ordination improvement efforts.

ACOA has implemented the Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN) in 43 communities: 31 reserves; 7 Innu, Inuit and Métis communities in Labrador; 4 Native Friendship Centres or Aboriginal organizations; and one with Ulnooweg Development Group Inc. (UDG), Atlantic Canada's only Aboriginal capital corporation. In partnership with the Atlantic Canada ABSN Working Committee and UDG, ACOA will develop an improvement plan based on a management review of the initiative in Atlantic Canada. Over the next 12 months, efforts will be expended to complete this review and develop and implement a plan to improve this service initiative.

In **Nova Scotia**, ACOA's most significant presence in Aboriginal economic development is through its involvement in the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum. ACOA participates through its work on the tripartite forum's Economic Development Working Committee (TEDC). ACOA's Nova Scotia regional office co-chairs this committee. ACOA will continue to work closely with the Economic Development Officers' Network (EDON), through the TEDC, to further the four main priority areas: entrepreneurship, information and communications technology, community capacity building, and the formalization of the EDON. TEDC provides an excellent forum for relationship-building and co-operation among federal and provincial government economic development counterparts. Active membership includes Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Aboriginal Business Canada, Human Resources Skills Development Canada, Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation, Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs, and the Nova Scotia Office of Economic Development.

In 2006-2007, ACOA will continue to utilize this committee as a proven and effective forum for dialogue on issues, developing strategic responses, providing input to national initiatives, and building partnerships to enhance Aboriginal economic development. In addition, the Agency will continue to work on Aboriginal economic development initiatives through its regular programming. An example of this is the partnership with other federal government departments to support the efforts of Ulnooweg Development Group Inc. to implement operational improvements to strengthen its operations and viability.

In **New Brunswick**, ACOA will assist a newly implemented Joint Aboriginal Development Fund (JADF) to continue to put in place a more co-ordinated approach to managing Aboriginal economic development activities. The JADF provides a means for the partnership among ACOA, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the provincial government to focus on support to the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI), strategic planning, community planning, and small business development and growth. ACOA co-chairs JEDI, a tripartite partnership process implemented by Aboriginal communities and the federal and provincial governments to identify and encourage undertakings aimed at stimulating economic development in Aboriginal communities. Participants of JEDI include: senior officials from a number of provincial and federal departments, chiefs of First Nation communities, leaders of provincial Aboriginal organizations, economic development officers and human resource development officers from Aboriginal communities, and interested Aboriginal individuals. Through this process, policy actions and funding partners are identified to encourage capacity building, education, and training initiatives to develop the skills essential for individual and community self-reliance, as well as the economic development of New Brunswick's Aboriginal population. Specifically, the 2006-2007 JEDI strategic action plan will focus on community economic development planning, workplace skills/human resources, procurement opportunities, youth internship, and strategic tourism and wind energy initiatives.

In **Newfoundland and Labrador**, ACOA is actively engaged with Aboriginal entrepreneurs and organizations. ACOA will continue to work with the Labrador Inuit Association, the Innu Nation and the Labrador Métis Nation, the Conne River Mi'kmaq and the Federation of Newfoundland Indians on their self-identified priorities.

In particular, ACOA will continue its "broker" role between Aboriginal groups in Labrador and other federal agencies. ACOA chairs the Voisey's Bay Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Committee and the Voisey's Bay Federal Aboriginal Co-ordinating Committee, the latter of which acts as a single window for access to federal programs by Aboriginal businesses in Labrador. Both the Innu Nation and the Labrador Inuit Association are heavily involved with the development of Voisey's Bay, in terms of jobs, business opportunities and royalties. The Métis Nation is also accessing opportunities associated with Voisey's Bay development.

In 2006-2007, ACOA will be involved in:

- assessing an application submitted by Miawpukek First Nation for funding support to establish a First Nations trust;
- meeting with the new Nunatsiavut government to discuss how economic development programming will be implemented in the region; and
- participating, in partnership with the Department of National Defence, in consultations with the three Aboriginal groups in Labrador to identify and accommodate Aboriginal economic interests as part of the strategic disposal of surplus infrastructure at Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay.

In addition, ACOA participates with other federal departments on a steering committee that organizes forums on Aboriginal issues. Participants will meet to share information and identify opportunities to work together to enhance capacity building related to Aboriginal social and economic development.

Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation (ECBC) will work in partnership with First Nation communities in Cape Breton toward the achievement of economic development goals. Areas of focus for the corporation will include community-based infrastructure development, entrepreneurship and business skills development, and the development of technology-based industries.

Over the coming year, the corporation will continue to work with the Tripartite Economic Development Committee, a partnership between the federal and provincial governments and First Nation communities of Nova Scotia, to address the economic development challenges facing First Nation communities. ECBC will also work with the Economic Development Officers Network, a voluntary group that meets on a regular basis to address issues relating to Aboriginal peoples.

In addition, ECBC will collaborate with other federal government departments on specific initiatives. This includes the Marshall Response Initiative led by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. This initiative is part of the federal government response to the Marshall decision that includes a component for economic development in First Nation communities.

In Prince Edward Island, ACOA is working in partnership with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island to refine an economic development action plan, complete with a recommended program mandate, strategic objectives, services, and implementation considerations. Stakeholders are reviewing the report and charting the next steps. The confederacy is also analyzing information from a best practices mission with Nova Scotia First Nations held in late January 2006. The goal of the mission was to expose current and future leaders in the Aboriginal community to successful economic development initiatives in other Atlantic Canadian communities. The confederacy is incorporating lessons learned from the mission and developing an action plan for follow-up in Prince Edward Island Aboriginal communities

On the national stage, ACOA will continue to participate and promote Atlantic Canada's interests in a number of interdepartmental committees, industry groups, departments and Atlantic Aboriginal groups dealing with a wide variety of Aboriginal issues, such as: draft legislation, 2010 Olympics, access to capital, land claims issues, sector council, Aboriginal tourism, economic opportunities, Voisey's Bay and the Aboriginal Voice connectivity project.