



Selik Shainfarber, CITT Research Director led a discussion on a major review underway in the CITT relating to the conduct of SIMA inquiries and reviews. The CITT is reviewing its procedures in order to simplify and expedite inquiries and reviews. Internal consultation has focused on pre-hearing activities, including the questionnaire, pre-hearing conferences and interrogatories. Hearing room activities have been reviewed to see if the present lengthy hearings can be shortened through the effective use of interrogatories, extensive "will-say" statements, etc. The CITT intends to begin consulting externally in late summer or early fall 1995. The CBA representatives expressed great interest in this review and encouraged the CITT to call upon the CBA's resources to provide input as soon as possible. It was acknowledged that the CITT would also contact the CBA as other initiatives are undertaken in order to keep the CBA apprised of such initiatives and to include representatives of the CBA where appropriate.

Mr. Eyton raised the issue of video conferencing for *Customs Act* and *Excise Tax Act* appeals and indicated that the CITT will be using this technology in some future regional hearings. The CBA representatives expressed support for this initiative.

Next meeting - October 19, 1995, Ottawa.