



# IGAT INSIDER

*Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade*

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## **Summer 2003 (Issue #5)**

This issue highlights:

- Update on current policy and trade issues (Innovation Strategy, Smart Regulation, and Climate Change).
- Updates on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Task Force on Developing Countries and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation-Subcommittee on Standards and Conformance (APEC-SCSC) meetings.
- The year ahead for the Standard Council of Canada's (SCC) Advisory Committees.
- Conformity Assessment – A Piece in the Standardization Puzzle.
- News – Canada's successful trade policy peer reviews and Ontario's Safe Water Drinking Act.

### **Inside IGAT**

- **Current Policy and Trade Issues**

#### ***Innovation Strategy Next Steps***

Launched in February 2003, Canada's Innovation Strategy is a long-term commitment requiring partnerships among government, business, academia and citizens to make Canada one of the most innovative countries in the world. Between May and November 2002, Canadians had an opportunity to participate in the consultation process, and to submit their views and ideas on creating a culture of innovation and learning for Canada.

The culmination of the consultation process was the National Summit on Innovation and Learning on 2002-11-18/19. The summit was attended by over 400 participants from across Canada. Peter D. Clark, Executive Director, SCC and Erica Bruce, Policy Analyst, SCC attended the National Summit. The objective was to engage stakeholders in shaping priorities for the Innovation Strategy.

Input from the process led to a national action plan, outlining 18 recommendations. Recommendations focused on continuing to expand university-based research; expanding programs that support commercialization; reducing or eliminating capital taxes; modifying curricula (innovation-related, literacy); providing incentives to increase in-house and apprenticeship training; and, recognizing foreign credentials of new immigrants.

#### ***Looking for Answers? Information and Research Services***

The SCC's Information & Research staff can help you find the answer to your standards, conformity assessment and regulatory-related questions. They respond to a wide variety of questions every day – questions as diverse as the clients who are asking them. And they are just a phone call or e-mail away.

The Information and Research service staff can help you:

- Identify the standards, regulations and conformity assessment procedures you need before you enter a particular market.
- Find out who can help you meet those requirements.
- Verify the accuracy of standards information from other sources.
- Navigate the SCC website.
- Locate sources to purchase Canadian, foreign and international standards.

Charges may apply for extensive research.

If you have a question call (613) 238-3222, email [info@scc.ca](mailto:info@scc.ca), or website [www.scc.ca/infocentre/info\\_res\\_e.html](http://www.scc.ca/infocentre/info_res_e.html).

One of the recommendations of particular interest to the SCC is accelerating regulatory reform, which will be led by the Privy Council Office. More information on the Smart Regulation initiative is provided below. [www.innovationstrategy.gc.ca](http://www.innovationstrategy.gc.ca)

## **Smart Regulation**

The Government of Canada recognizes that new approaches towards regulation are required, and in the 2002 Speech from the Throne, made a commitment to move forward with a smart regulation strategy "...to accelerate reforms in key areas to promote health and sustainability, to contribute to innovation and economic growth, and to reduce the administrative burden on business."<sup>1</sup> To pursue the strategy, the government announced on 2003-02-11 the creation of an External Advisory Committee to recommend areas where government should redesign its regulatory approaches.<sup>2,3</sup>

The External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation (EACSR) will provide an external perspective and expert advice to the Government of Canada on regulatory issues spanning economic and social policy objectives. Over the next 12 to 15 months, the Committee will:

- Recommend where and how the government needs to redesign its regulatory approach to create and maintain a Canadian advantage.
- Provide an external perspective and expert advice on current regulatory issues as well as on a Canadian regulatory strategy for the 21st century.

The 2003 federal budget allocated \$4 million over two years to support this work. The Chair of the committee is Hugh McDiarmid, President of Killin Management Corporation. The Secretariat for the committee will be provided by the Privy Council Office, and the committee will report to a committee of Ministers.

### **Role for SCC**

The SCC is participating on two departmental working committees. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has formed an Interdepartmental Task Team on International Regulatory Co-operation. This group will contribute to the international dimension of the Smart Regulation initiative and will provide input into the EACSR. Industry Canada also has a Working Group to provide information and advice to the Advisory Committee and the Minister. David Shortall, Manager, Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade participates on both committees. The SCC has provided Industry Canada with input into the role of voluntary standardization as an important policy tool for regulation, and current Standards Council of Canada's programs and services that complement smart regulation.

## **Climate change**

With Canada's recent ratification of the Kyoto protocol and the initial reference to the SCC in the Government of Canada's [Climate Change Plan for Canada](#) (pg. 53), the SCC is continuing to provide input to this initiative through Environment Canada's Greenhouse Gas Verification Centre. The SCC is also contributing to the Industry Portfolio Office (IPO) of Industry Canada regarding the applicability of voluntary standardization to aid Canada in meeting its climate change commitments. As implementation plans and next steps are further refined, the SCC will continue to promote the

### **Staff Insider**

**Charles LaFlèche**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Momentum Healthware of Winnipeg, Manitoba, has been appointed to the Standards Council of Canada.

**Lise Boisvert** has been appointed to the term position of Administrative Assistant, WTO/NAFTA Enquiry Point.

**Jolene Burse** has been appointed to the term position of Liaison Officer.

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1 Speech from the Throne to Open the Second Session of the 37<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Canada. [www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/sft-ddt/vnav/06\\_2\\_e.htm](http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/sft-ddt/vnav/06_2_e.htm), 2002.

2 Prime Minister's Office, "Prime Minister Appoints Hugh MacDiarmid as Chair of the External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation," February 11, 2003. [pm.gc.ca](http://pm.gc.ca)

3 Prime Minister's Office, "Prime Minister Names Members of External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation," May 1, 2003. [pm.gc.ca](http://pm.gc.ca)

possibilities for standardization-related cooperation (provincial, federal and international) and champion the advantages of applying voluntary standardization mechanisms to current and future climate change initiatives. [www.climatechange.gc.ca](http://www.climatechange.gc.ca)

## • Around the World

### ***International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Executive Committee Meeting (2003-02-13/14 and 2003-05-12/13)***

Over the last 6 months, the Executive Committee has held two meetings (Sydney, Australia and Pretoria, South Africa). The highlights from these meetings are:

- **Code of Conduct:** The IAF Code of Conduct for Accreditation Bodies has been revised by the responsible Task Force taking into consideration comments received, and will now be circulated to all IAF members for approval.
- **IAF MLA Mark:** The IAF has voted to have a single IAF MLA Mark versus a joint mark with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). The selection process for a modified IAF Seal and MLA Mark is nearing completion.
- **ISO/ILAC/IAF Joint Efforts:** The International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and IAF are considering extending the basis of their cooperation from complaints handling to other issues.
- **ISO 9001 Transition Date:** The Executive Committee confirmed there would be no change to the ISO 9001 transition date of December 2003, although it was noted that some organizations' operations are being disrupted due to SARS.

[www.iaf.nu](http://www.iaf.nu)

### ***International Organization for Standardization Council Task Force on Developing Countries (ISO-DCTF)***

At the September 2002 General Assembly, ISO established a Council Task Force on Developing Countries (DCTF) to develop a Programme of Action to enhance developing country participation in international standardization. At the ISO Council's meeting in March, the Task Force submitted a report outlining the following:

- **Principles** – These principles will guide the development, revision on implementation of existing and new ISO projects to assist the effectiveness and participation of developing countries.
- **Programme of Action** – To increase the participation of developing countries in international standardization activities, the programme of action focuses on activities that:
  - Improve awareness
  - Develop capacity
  - Increase national/regional cooperation
  - Develop electronic communication
  - Review ISO governance aspects and directives.

Not only was the SCC a member of the Task Force, but the SCC also prepared the report on behalf of the Task Force. The ISO Council endorsed the report, and set up an Ad Hoc Group to undertake some of the projects listed in the report.

### ***World Trade Organization – Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO-TBT) Meeting (2003-03-18/20)***

#### **Workshop on Technical Assistance**

Over the past nine months, survey results for developing countries to assist in identifying and prioritizing their specific needs to meet their TBT obligations has been compiled. A Workshop on Technical Assistance was held to discuss the findings, and there were several observations:

- Awareness of the WTO-TBT Agreement needs to be raised within developing countries.
- There needs to be a clear understanding of how technical assistance should be provided.

- Many technical assistance projects are underway, but there is no central database tracking projects.
- There needs to be a mechanism to measure performance and progress for these projects.

## WTO-TBT Meeting

The focus of the meeting was on two issues – the Third Triennial Review and labelling.

- **Third Triennial Review:** The WTO-TBT agreement states that every three years, the TBT Committee will review the operation and implementation of the Agreement. The third Triennial review will be completed by November 2003. Several papers for the Triennial Review were submitted to the TBT Committee:
  - Concept papers from the European Union (G/TBT/W/197) and Canada (G/TBT/W/196) which identified with similar issues (Good Regulatory Practice, Labeling and Conformity Assessment).
  - Two papers on Conformity Assessment – Japan (G/TBT/W/194, Acceptance of Conformity Assessment procedures) and Chinese Taipei (Suppliers Declaration of Conformity).
  - Papers on technical assistance from New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation – Subcommittee on Standards and Conformance (APEC-SCSC).
  - China submitted a paper on transparency.

At the request of Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the SCC prepared a discussion paper that describes Canada's approaches to, and experiences with, conformity assessment. Canada will be submitting papers on Good Regulatory Practice, labelling, conformity assessment and technical assistance.

- **Labelling:** Canada has been advocating a number of considerations for a more structured approach to discussions on labelling in the TBT Committee, and has proposed that a learning event be held in late 2003. The event would allow members to exchange ideas and discuss their experiences with mandatory and voluntary labelling. [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)

## • Regional Organizations

### ***APEC – Sub-committee on Standards and Conformance Meeting (2003-05-23/25)***

Held in Kohn Kaen, Thailand, the second meeting of the SCSC focused on:

- **Electrical and Electronic Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)** – Australia discussed this initiative noting that full participation would help meet the Osaka Agenda goal of participation by all APEC members. The SCSC agreed that member economies would advise the SCSC Chair about their participation in the three parts of the Electrical MRA prior to the next meeting in August.
- **Trade Facilitation** – SCSC members noted that many of the standards and conformance items on the APEC Trade Facilitation Plan had already been implemented, and therefore suggested that the committee considers identifying further actions and measures for future implementation.
- **SCSC Terms of Reference Revision** – Chile and Canada presented a report with preliminary recommendations on reducing the number of meetings from three to two per year. A more formal proposal on revisions to the Terms of Reference will be circulated prior to the August meeting.

The 3<sup>rd</sup>, and final meeting for 2003, will be held in August in Phuket, Thailand. [www.apec2003.com](http://www.apec2003.com)

### ***APEC – Sub-committee on Standards and Conformance Meeting (2003-02-13/15)***

The first APEC-SCSC meeting of 2003 was held in Chaing Rai, Thailand. Major outcomes of the meeting were:

- **WTO-TBT** – To increase linkages between capacity building projects in standards and conformance with the WTO-TBT Committee work on Trade-Related Technical Assistance (TRTA), the SCSC will contribute information on its capacity-building activities to the WTO Secretariat. At the May meeting, the SCSC will hold a workshop focusing on the TBT Triennial Review which will include information on Good Regulatory Practice, conformity assessment, TRTA and transparency.

- **Policy Dialogue on ISO 9001 Certification** – Organized by the United States, the workshop was an exchange of view on the usefulness and applicability of ISO 9001 (Quality Management Systems) certification.
- **SCSC Projects** – Several proposals were reviewed for consideration by the SCSC. One of interest is the *Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) Readiness Project in Environmental Management System (EMS) Certification*. This Pacific Accreditation Cooperation-led (PAC) proposes to provide assistance to develop the technical infrastructure of member economies in the accreditation of EMS. Many accreditation and certification bodies from developing economies need assistance in developing their schemes in accordance with international guidelines. The project will involve training courses including peer evaluator training. The SCC, as a PAC member, will be involved in this initiative.
- **Meetings** – The committee discussed the possibility of meeting twice, instead of three times per year.

### ***Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) Executive Committee Meeting (2003-02-17/18)***

The PAC Executive Committee met on the following issues:

- **Implementation of PAC Product Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLA) APEC Project:** The SCC may receive a request for observers to be present to witness product certification-related activities.
- **IAF/PAC Peer Evaluation/Re-Evaluation of SCC:** The completion of required actions is required.
- **PAC Web Site:** The PAC Web site has been maintained by the SCC over the last three years, but the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) have agreed to take over this responsibility.

[www.apec-pac.org/](http://www.apec-pac.org/)

### **• Committee Activities – The Year Ahead**

Advisory Committees will be busy over the coming year. Highlights of activities planned for 2003/2004.

#### ***Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT)***

The ACT will provide input to DFAIT in the development of a Canadian position regarding the WTO TBT Third Triennial Review. Also, the committee has set up a Working Group on Strategic Issues to explore and identify emerging trade issues, which have a potential impact on standards and conformity assessment. An outcome may be the publication of *strategic issues forecasts* that examine future trends in standardization.

#### ***Canadian Advisory Committee on Developing Country Matters (CAC-DEVCO)***

CAC-DEVCO continues to build and strengthen partnerships with international, regional and national partners by participating in the ISO Council Developing Country Task Force (ISO/DCTF) (see Around the World). Technical assistance projects are a major focus for the committee. Current projects being supported include sponsorship of Costa Rica and Tunisia to participate in Working Group 22 for ISO/IEC Guide 60 Conformity Assessment; support to a Co-Chair/Twinning arrangement with Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards, and a SCC-Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) Capacity Building project with Cameroon. The SCC supported the participation of Bolivia, Costa Rica, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago at the 2003 ISO Networking Conference held in Ottawa.

#### ***Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)***

This year, PTAC will be completing a survey focusing on provincial and territorial (P&T) standardization issues and concerns. Survey results will provide input into SCC strategic planning exercises. Another focus for PTAC is to prepare a *Briefing Binder* designed to explain, promote and increase public and senior P&T officials' awareness of the National Standards System (NSS).

## **Conformity Assessment – A piece in the standardization puzzle**

### ***What is Conformity Assessment?***

Conformity assessment (CA), the practice of determining if a material, product, service or system meets the requirements of a particular standard, plays a critical role in the standardization system.<sup>4</sup> Where standards set out procedures designed to ensure that a material, product, service or system is produced or consistently performs the way in which it is intended, conformity assessment verifies that this is the case. Conformity assessment can include calibration, testing, inspection and certification and can be carried out by a supplier (1<sup>st</sup> party), a purchaser (2<sup>nd</sup> party) or by an independent body (3<sup>rd</sup> party). CA is often a regulatory requirement for the entry of products or services into the marketplace. In many cases, organizations engaged in standards development and conformity assessment activities will seek accreditation - the formal recognition of the competence to perform a particular function. Taken together, standards, conformity assessment and accreditation activities can build confidence amongst manufacturers, services providers, regulators and consumers. Here are three examples.

- A software product development company wants to expand its services and products not only within Canada but internationally. To ensure that their customers are provided with products and services that meet expectations in a timely and cost-effective manner, the company began working with an accredited registrar to obtain registration to the ISO 9000 series of quality management standards (QMS). The company's system was then assessed by an independent, quality system registrar. Once approved, the company will be able to use its ISO 9000 registration to market itself to customers around the world.
- A Canadian manufacturer uses a European supplier of raw materials. Before being shipped to Canada, samples are analyzed by local laboratories to confirm that they meet the grades and requirements as per the contract. The contract refers to an ISO standard, and the manufacturer is assured that testing is carried out according to the standard.

### ***Building Confidence, Expanding into New Markets***

One of the main benefits of CA is an enhanced confidence in the product, service or system. For a company, CA can result in enhanced customer satisfaction, expansion into new markets and an improved bottom line. Consumers will know that the product or service has met certain criteria prior to coming to market.

From a trade perspective, if products and services destined for export meet national or international standards, Canadian firms will gain a reputation as suppliers of high quality products. To obtain recognition by foreign markets of Canada's ability to produce quality products, conformity assessment and an accompanying accreditation are crucial ingredients and can be used in negotiations to gain access to new markets.

### ***Standards Council of Canada (SCC) Accreditation Programs***

The SCC operates the following accreditation programs to recognize the competence of organizations to perform specific conformity assessment functions:

**Certification Bodies Accreditation Program** – Certification bodies' (CB) are accredited to certify in a variety of areas (e.g. automotive, information technology, organics, and wood products). CBs provide independent, third party evaluations.

**Program for the Accreditation of Laboratories – Canada (PALCAN)** – More than 300 labs are accredited in program specialty areas such as calibration, environmental, food, forensics and information technology security evaluation and testing.

**Environmental Management Systems Accreditation Program (EMSAP)/Quality Management Systems Accreditation Program (QMSAP)** – More than 20 registration bodies are accredited to register companies to the ISO 9001 QMS and ISO 14001 EMS standards. Sector-specific applicants are included such as QS 9000 for the automotive industry and CAN/CSA Z809 for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).

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<sup>4</sup> ISO/IEC Guide 2: Standardization and related activities -- General vocabulary

**Inspection Body Accreditation Program (NEW in 2003)** – Inspection Body accreditation is the process of assessing and publicly recognizing the integrity and reliability of inspection services. Inspections ensure the safety and fitness for use of products and materials, and ensure the safety of facilities, equipment and systems. The first fields of inspection for this new program will be electrical safety, and hospital medical gas delivery systems.

For more detailed information on these programs: [www.scc.ca/accreditation/index\\_e.html](http://www.scc.ca/accreditation/index_e.html)

### **Harmonizing Conformity Assessment Activities**

#### **Role of ISO/CASCO**

The ISO committee on conformity assessment (ISO/CASCO) promotes the harmonization of and provides information on the principles and practice of conformity assessment. CASCO prepares and maintains international standards and guides related to conformity assessment activities and, promotes mutual recognition and acceptance of national and regional conformity assessment systems. There are 67 Participant-members and 24 Observer-members representing developed and developing economies.

#### **Roles of ACCA and CAC/CASCO**

There are two committees within the SCC that focus on conformity assessment activities. The Advisory Committee on Conformity Assessment (ACCA) provides leadership and advice to the SCC on matters pertaining to sharing, promotion and recognizing conformity assessment programs, identifies existing or emerging conformity assessment issues related to public policy concerns and expectations, and provides advice on priorities for national programs.

The Canadian Advisory Committee on ISO for Conformity Assessment matters (CAC/CASCO), a subcommittee of the ACCA, represents Canada at ISO/CASCO annual plenary meetings and coordinates Canadian input into ISO/CASCO's document development activities. The ISO/CASCO Secretariat in Geneva circulates draft international guides and standards under development in various working groups (WG) to CASCO members, including the SCC, for comment. Through a series of these consultations, the draft documents are refined and consensus is achieved. Canada currently participates in the majority of ISO/CASCO's WGs.

#### **Moving Towards Global Acceptance?**

In a perfect world, by following international standards and conformity assessment practices, Canadian conformity assessment results would be accepted worldwide. However the use of different practices and approaches to testing and certification continue to exist, an environment that often leads to additional costs and obstacles for exporters. The Second Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement in November 2000 recognized that different conformity procedures impeded trade, and there was some debate, but no agreement on the merits of a TBT code of good practice for conformity assessment.<sup>5</sup>

#### **ISO/CASCO Documents under Revision or Development**

##### **Guides**

Revision of ISO/IEC Guide 60:1994, *Code of good practice for conformity assessment*

##### **International Standards**

Revision of conformity assessment part of the current Guide 2:1996 as an International Standard – future ISO/IEC 17000, *Conformity assessment – General vocabulary*

Development of an International Standard for assessment and accreditation on the basis of ISO/IEC Guides 58, 61 and ISO/IEC TR 17010 - Future ISO/IEC 17011, *General requirements for bodies providing assessment and accreditation of conformity assessment bodies*

Development of an International Standard for assessment and certification/registration of QMS or EMS based on ISO/IEC Guides 62 and 66 - Future ISO/IEC 17021, *General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification of management systems*

5 D. Shortall, *Code of practice for Conformity Assessment and the WTO TBT Agreement*, ISO Bulletin October 2002.

As an alternative, Canada proposed a voluntary approach based on the revision of ISO/IEC Guide 60, *Code of good practice for conformity assessment*. ISO/CASCO WG 22 was formed to undertake the revisions with Canada serving as the WG convenor. The goal of ISO/IEC Guide 60 is to design a framework of best practices and procedures which could be used by all conformity assessment stakeholders including governmental, private, national and international systems. The revised Guide will take into account new developments in the field of CA, reflect the objectives of the WTO/TBT and encourage the engagement and participation of developing countries. The Guide is scheduled to be complete by December 2004.

The SCC has signed a number of multilateral recognition arrangements (MLAs) to move towards acceptance of internationally harmonized approaches to conformity assessment, and a table of these international Web sites is at [www.scc.ca/igat/mra\\_e.pdf](http://www.scc.ca/igat/mra_e.pdf).<sup>6</sup> These arrangements promote the mutual recognition of members' accreditation results and aim to reduce the number of assessments that products need to undergo as products are traded across borders. MLA activities also serve to reduce technical barriers to trade, improve competition and instil further consumer confidence in goods and services.

Conformity assessment is one piece in the standardization puzzle, and is a fundamental component of the move towards, *one standard, one test – Accepted everywhere*.

#### **Web site Links**

SCC Advisory Committees - [www.scc.ca/whoweare/advisory/index\\_e.html](http://www.scc.ca/whoweare/advisory/index_e.html)  
ISO/CASCO [www.iso.org/iso/en/stdsdevelopment/tc/otherbodies/TechnicalCommitteeDetailPage.TechnicalCommitteeDetail?COMMID=4676](http://www.iso.org/iso/en/stdsdevelopment/tc/otherbodies/TechnicalCommitteeDetailPage.TechnicalCommitteeDetail?COMMID=4676)  
ISO Bulletin – Conformity Assessment (October 2002) [www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/isobulletin/articles/2002/Articlesindex.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/isobulletin/articles/2002/Articlesindex.html)  
European Organization for Conformity Assessment [www.conformityassessment.org](http://www.conformityassessment.org)

#### **News**

##### ***ISO Networking Conference – A Great Success***

Hosted by the SCC and attended by Alan Bryden, ISO Secretary-General and Hugh Krentz, Chair, SCC, the event attracted over 100 participants from 34 countries. Held in Ottawa from 2003-04-15/16 the Conference, entitled "*Networking in a New Information and Communication Environment*", served as a forum for the exchange of information regarding marketing strategies, methods used and benefits of promotion, as well as training in standardization and related areas. The event provided SCC with the opportunity to promote the National Standards System as a world leader in the area of standardization, and to showcase SCC's product and services. [www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/presentations/wkshps-seminars/isonetworking/2003/index.list](http://www.iso.org/iso/en/commcentre/presentations/wkshps-seminars/isonetworking/2003/index.list)

##### ***Canada Completes Successful Trade Policy Peer Reviews***

Canada has recently completed two peer reviews – the *APEC Peer Review*<sup>7</sup> and the *WTO Trade Policy Review*<sup>8</sup>. Both reviews focused on Canada's current trade and investment policies and procedures, and commended Canada for being amongst the world's most transparent and liberal systems. The APEC Peer Review, in the areas of standards and conformance, congratulated Canada for its open and transparent system particularly our participation in international

6 The [August 2002 IGAT Insider](#) issue featured more information on the importance of MLAs.

7 The APEC Peer Review is based on each member economies' Individual Action Plans (IAPs) that report on current and future activities in such areas as competition policy, investment, tariffs, and standards and conformance. IAPs are public documents and available at [www.apec-iap.org](http://www.apec-iap.org).

8 The WTO World Trade Review is an independent peer-reviewed journal which addresses trade issues from economic, legal, political and interdisciplinary perspectives. Canada's review cited that Canada is amongst the world's most transparent and liberal system with sound economic policies.

#### **Getting Involved in CASCO Activities**

If you want to get involved in the development of national and international standards, the SCC welcomes individuals to participate. For more information, the SCC Volunteer Program web page has all the information on participation. [www.scc.ca/volunteer/index\\_e.html](http://www.scc.ca/volunteer/index_e.html)  
[www.scc.ca/volunteer/index\\_f.html](http://www.scc.ca/volunteer/index_f.html)



standardization activities, adoption of international standards as national standards where possible, and availability of standards information through the SCC Web site. Canada was commended for promoting cooperation for technical infrastructure development to facilitate broad participation in MRAs, and for adopting Canadian national standards from or based on international standards.

For a copy of the reports go to the following links:

Canada's APEC-IAP Peer Review Report: [www.apecsec.org.sg/whatsnew/press/PressRel\\_CdalAPReview\\_2003.html](http://www.apecsec.org.sg/whatsnew/press/PressRel_CdalAPReview_2003.html)

Canada's WTO Trade Policy Review: [www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tp\\_r\\_e/tp211\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp_r_e/tp211_e.htm)

### ***Ontario's Safe Drinking Water Act***

The contamination of an Ontario municipal water system in Walkerton Ontario brought the important issue of safe, clean drinking water to the forefront. When the Safe Drinking Water Act was tabled a key element was mandatory accreditation for water-testing laboratories. In Ontario, legislation (O.Reg 459/00) was introduced making accreditation mandatory in order for these labs to receive licensing. In partnership with the Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL), the SCC established a program for the accreditation of environmental testing laboratories. The SCC/CAEAL program is an effective vehicle for the Ontario government to implement components of its proposed legislation in a cost-effective manner. Leveraging the expertise of the SCC/CAEAL in proficiency testing and quality management is a gainful means of ensuring that the infrastructure to support healthy water resources is maintained. [www.scc.ca/news/articles/tapping\\_e.html](http://www.scc.ca/news/articles/tapping_e.html)

### **Coming Events**

#### **August**

10-14 **Standards Engineering Society Conference** (New Orleans, Louisiana) [www.ses-standards.org](http://www.ses-standards.org)

16-17 **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation – Standards and Conformance Subcommittee** (Phuket, Thailand) [www.apec2003.org](http://www.apec2003.org)

17-21 **National Conference of Standards Laboratories** (Tampa, Florida) [www.ncsli.org](http://www.ncsli.org)

#### **September**

10-14 **WTO Ministerial Conference** (Cancún, Mexico) [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)

14-25 **International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation/International Accreditation Forum** (Bratislava, Slovakia) [www.iaf.nu](http://www.iaf.nu) / [www.ilac.org](http://www.ilac.org)

15-20 **International Organization for Standardization General Assembly** (Buenos Aires, Argentina) [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

21-28 **World Forestry Congress** (Québec City, Quebec) [www.wfc2003.org](http://www.wfc2003.org)

#### **October**

12-17 **International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Annual Meeting** (Montréal, Quebec) [www.iec-2003.org/](http://www.iec-2003.org/)

## Next Issue

On-line services and information related to standardization will be the theme of the Fall 2003 issue.

### ***IGAT Insider***

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade (IGAT) is a branch of the Standards Council of Canada. Our role is to strengthen Canadian policy development and strategic participation with respect to international standardization, international trade and intergovernmental cooperation. The *IGAT Insider* is an electronic newsletter published three times a year. The newsletter can be found on the IGAT Web page at [http://www.scc.ca/igat/index\\_e.html](http://www.scc.ca/igat/index_e.html).

We appreciate all suggestions, feedback and questions. Questions and suggestions should be directed to:

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