

MITT business assistance programs are geared primarily to meeting needs in the area of management skills. The ministry offers a variety of training sessions dealing with the major aspects of business management. It operates the PRO-PME financial assistance program, which underwrites a portion of the cost of implementing a management tool or hiring a CEGEP or university graduate on a permanent basis. Finally, the MITT makes available, to small businesses, the services of a team of specialists in various business operations, and encourages and assists young people wishing to set up their own businesses.

In addition to this technical and financial assistance, the Quebec government also offers a number of tax incentives designed to promote industrial activity. For example, since 1986 new businesses have been exempt from taxes on profits and the tax on capital for the first three taxation years. These exemptions apply respectively to the first \$200,000 of taxable income earned each year and to the first \$2 million of paid-up capital. Research and development expenditures also enjoy favoured tax treatment, as follows: deductibility of all research and development expenditures from taxable income, refundable tax credit on salaries paid in Quebec for business research and development activities, an additional credit when the research is performed by a university, and a two-year exemption from provincial personal income tax for foreign researchers who join a Quebec firm.

The government of Quebec also provides businesses with ready access to public funding by granting tax exemptions to individuals who invest in Quebec companies through the Régime d'épargne-actions du Québec (REA), the Régime d'investissement coopératif (RIC), the Sociétés de placement dans l'entreprise québécoise (SPEQ) and the Fonds de solidarité des travailleurs du Québec.

**Ontario.** The Ontario Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology accelerates introduction and application of new manufacturing technology; assists in product innovation and commercialization of new products and processes; promotes investment, both domestic and foreign; draws more companies into exporting; supports trade through international offices, trade shows, missions and the trade expansion fund; promotes and assists the formation of small businesses and encourages expansion of the domestic market by identifying domestic sources of supply; and supports the growth of productive and stable employment in consultation and partnership with the private sector.

The Premier's Council was formed in April 1986 to assist the Ontario government in developing long-term programs for the province's economic development. Chaired by the Premier, the Council is composed of leading representatives of the business, labour, and academic communities, as well as a number of government ministers.

The Council meets approximately 10 times annually to discuss ways of improving the development and use of new technology, strengthening the province's existing industrial base and improving the skills of Ontario's workforce. The Council has initiated a number of programs to enhance the province's abilities in the fields of advanced research, industrial innovation, labour adjustment, and entrepreneurship. In addition, the Council has also undertaken a broad study on the competitiveness of Ontario industry and the capabilities of the province's educational and science infrastructure entitled *Competing in the New Global Economy*.

The ministry arranges for Ontario participation at trade fairs and exhibitions, organizes trade missions and business opportunity missions, conducts seminars, supplies information on agents and distributors and works closely with trading houses.

The Ontario International Corp. (OIC) is a marketing agency for the government in Ontario. It explores world market opportunities for private sector service industries and co-ordinates public sector input in the development of major capital projects abroad. OIC is not a funding agency. It offers marketing and advisory services to Ontario engineers, consultants, architects, contractors and management consultants.

The Ontario Development Corporation (ODC), Northern Ontario Development Corporation (NODC), and Eastern Ontario Development Corporation (EODC) offer a variety of financial assistance programs for capital projects undertaken by secondary manufacturing industries, selected service industries and tourist operations. Assistance is also offered to Ontario-based exporters experiencing working capital problems when selling to foreign countries.

Through the New Ventures Program, guarantees to a maximum of \$15,000 are offered to any new business, including businesses in the service sector.

Innovation Ontario Corporation (IOC) provides an array of pre-venture equity financing for new or existing companies involved in the development of technology based products, processes and services.