

Annual Report 2005/2006

Chapter Eight (Consumer-Related Measures and Standards)

Chapter Eight of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) calls upon the federal, provincial and territorial governments to report on and cooperate in, the enforcement of consumer protection measures. As part of that agreement, the Committee on Consumer Related Measures and Standards (CMC), composed of federal, provincial and territorial officials, undertook negotiations to reach agreement on specific commitments made under the AIT. This work was substantially completed in 1998. The CMC is tasked with monitoring the implementation and administration of these agreements.

The CMC is also responsible for identifying any substantive measures for inclusion in future negotiations, acting as a forum for discussions between the Parties on consumer-related measures and undertaking dispute resolution.

In 2005/2006 the following steps were taken by the Parties:

- The CMC **Identity Theft** Working Group carried out a public consultation from July 6, 2005 to September 15, 2005 to explore a number of options to address identity theft and to make it easier for victims to recover from the experience. The findings of this consultation will be presented at the April 2006 CMC meeting in Ottawa.
- During National Fraud Awareness Month, the CMC launched an updated version of the **Identity Theft Checklist for Consumers** that is available on the CMC website cmcweb.ca.
- A Task Group on **Credit Reporting** was created to look into technical elements of credit reporting regulation/legislation. A preliminary list of harmonized technical elements for CMC consideration was developed.
- The CMC **Consumer Awareness** Working Group updated the **Canadian Consumer Handbook 2006**.
- The CMC **Travel Services** Working Group continued to monitor issues relating to consumer protection in this sector.
- The CMC **Alternative Consumer Credit Market** Working Group analyzed the results of a public consultation (conducted in late 2004 and early 2005) and fine-tuned its research and analysis in preparation for an eventual Ministers' meeting.
- The CMC **Cost of Credit Disclosure** Working Group continued to discuss options for resolving the dispute.
- A **CMC meeting** took place in Ottawa, April 20-21, 2006.