



Economic Advancement  
Canada

Avancement Économique  
Canada

Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0Z0

**FOR DECISION**

N03-52385

## **MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER**

**SUBJECT:** The subject should not exceed two lines,  
and the bottom line should be longer than the top line

### **ISSUE**

The issue statement sets out what has happened, is happening or will happen to trigger the need for the memo. It should not exceed three or four lines. For details on issue statements, see [Format Guidelines for Memos](#).

### **BACKGROUND**

#### The Background Section

The background section provides information that will help the minister to understand the issue at hand and its context. However, not all memos require a background section. If that is the case for the memo you are working on, delete the heading “Background”.

#### Length of a Memo to the Minister

In many departments, a memo to the minister is limited to two pages. However, there is no limit to the amount of information that can be provided in attached briefing notes. In drafting, aim for a single page of text. Once that page has been formatted with headings, it will come out to two pages.

#### Attachments

Many types of documents might be attached to the memo. They could include backgrounders, third-party documents and documents for the minister to sign.

To find templates to use with attachments, go back to the [templates page](#) for memos, letters and briefing notes. The button for memos to the minister will lead you to the templates you need.

## CONSIDERATIONS

The considerations section provides findings, analyses, pros and cons, options and arguments that will lead the minister to see that the recommendation is an advisable response to the issue statement at the beginning of the memo.

Not all memos require a section on considerations. If that is the case for the memo you are working on, delete the heading “Considerations”.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Memos seeking a decision should end with a recommendation. Note the following:

1. The memo also provides a decision block. You will find one option for a decision block below below. However, there are many other options.
2. Columns are used to format the signature block and the decision block, so they can be edited worrying about their alignment with each other.
3. See [Format Guidelines for Memos](#) for further details on closing the memo.

Jean-Pierre Marchand

Attachments: (2)

Contacts:

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- Jeanne Cartier, (416) 991-1111  
Economics Division, Industry Branch

I accept:

- Recommendation 1
- Recommendation 2
- Recommendation 3

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Catherine R. Kathiria