

Section 4.—Economic Council of Canada

This Crown corporation was established by Act of Parliament (SC 1963, c.11) assented to on Aug. 2, 1963. The Council has very broad terms of reference. The Act directs it to advise how Canada can achieve the highest possible levels of employment and efficient production, so that the country may enjoy a high and consistent rate of economic growth and that all Canadians may share in rising living standards. As part of this general responsibility, Sect. 9 of the Act sets out a number of duties. In particular, the Council is instructed "to recommend what government policies will best help to realize the potentialities of growth of the economy". In order to provide the analytical basis for such recommendations, the Council is "regularly to assess on a systematic and comprehensive basis, the medium-term and long-term prospects of the economy and to compare such prospects with the potentialities of growth of the economy".

It is the duty of the Council to advise and recommend to the Minister (the Secretary of State) how Canada can achieve certain national economic objectives. The Act directs the attention of the Council particularly to the basic national policies that are the responsibility of the Federal Government; these include the fiscal and monetary policies that influence incentives and the general economic climate; the policies that determine Canada's relationship with the outside world in trade and finance; the policies regarding national developmental works, national transportation and communication; and the policies regarding manpower and its effective utilization.

The Council consists of 28 members appointed by the Governor in Council including a chairman and two directors who serve on a full-time basis and 25 other members broadly representative of different sectors and groups in the economy; all were appointed between Sept. 12 and Dec. 21, 1963. (See Register of Official Appointments, Chapter XXVIII.)

During its first year of operation, the Council assigned the highest priority to the preparation of the first of its Annual Reviews of Canada's medium-term and long-term prospects and problems.* Four working committees of the Council were established to facilitate development of work on a number of other projects and studies: a Committee on Economic Growth and Problems of Adjustment to consider means of dealing with problems of adjustment in the Canadian economy associated with economic growth; a Committee on Labour-Management Relations to consider how best to implement the provisions of the Act in the field of labour-management relations consultation and co-operation; a Productivity Committee to review how best to carry on the work begun by the National Productivity Council which ceased to exist on the establishment of the Economic Council of Canada and the duties of which were taken up under the authority of the Act; and an Advisory Committee on Industrial Research and Technology to consider the role of research and technology in Canadian economic growth. The membership of the latter Committee includes, in addition to members drawn from the Council, a number of leading Canadian business men.

As part of its program in the labour-management relations area, the Council sponsored the National Conference on Labour-Management Relations held on Nov. 9 and 10, 1964, which was attended by leaders of business and labour. The Conference was based on research studies concerned with two broad fields—the current status of labour-management co-operation in Canada and the implications for the Canadian economy of developments and experiments in the field of labour-management co-operation and relations in Europe and in the United States. A study was also undertaken on the recent experiments in labour-management relations in Nova Scotia. These studies, along with a general summary of the discussion that took place at the Conference, forms the basis for a Council publication.

A number of special studies by outside experts have been sponsored by the Council, which has authority to publish the reports and studies prepared for its use. Through this means, the Council hopes to provide not only advice to governments but also valuable information to the private sector of the economy.

* Economic Council of Canada, *First Annual Review: Economic Goals for Canada to 1970*. Queen's Printer, Ottawa. December 1964. \$3.50 (Catalogue No. EC 21-1/1964).