

4.5.3 Provincial planning agencies

Nova Scotia's Voluntary Planning, an organization representing non-government elements of the Nova Scotia community, was established in 1963 with the general objective of involving the private sector, on a co-ordinated and balanced basis, in a continuing program of economic and social development.

The organization comprises the following main components: sector committees representing "grass root" elements of producers, private business, labour and government in agriculture, construction, fisheries, forestry, mining, tourism, transportation, and secondary manufacturing; advisory councils in consumer affairs, education, power development and labour-management affairs; the Provincial Planning Board, which is made up of the sector and council chairmen, together with other representatives of business, labour and government; and a small professional staff which provides administrative and technical support to the volunteer groups.

Voluntary Planning defines its role as follows:

"To provide for the effective involvement of the private sector in development planning. To facilitate the identification of problems by the private sector and to relate appropriate private and public resources in an attempt to resolve these problems. To involve the private sector in the analysis of government planning proposals during the process of their development, and prior to final approval."

Through this planning agency government has a single contact with all major elements of the private sector and the private sector has both a forum for discussing mutual problems and a channel with government for submitting co-ordinated views on any aspect of development planning.

Quebec Planning and Development Bureau. In 1969, the Quebec Planning Board, created the previous year, became the Quebec Planning and Development Bureau, a corporate body administered by a director-general, who is chairman, and five other members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

With the objective of making the best possible use of the province's human and natural resources, the Quebec Bureau plans research and programs for economic and social advancement and for area development. It acts as a liaison between other provincial departments and agencies involved in planning and development, gathers information about their policies and programs and co-ordinates research activities. The Bureau advises the government about development projects undertaken and makes recommendations based on its own research. In addition, it directs any projects the Lieutenant-Governor charges it with and administers funds available for its program.

Two organizations advise the Bureau: the Interdepartmental Planning and Development Council comprising all Deputy Ministers of the Quebec government, and the Quebec Planning and Development Committee which represents Quebec socio-economic organizations, major specialized councils, regional representatives and special members. These two agencies advise the Bureau on subjects referred to them for consultation; however, the Bureau must indicate to the Council how it proposes to carry out its duties as liaison office for the implementation of plans, programs or projects.

The Bureau is responsible for administering three main agreements: (1) the Canada - Quebec Co-operation Agreement for Development of the Lower St. Lawrence, Gaspé and Magdalen Islands, covering the period 1971-76, which began under the FRED program and replaced the 1968 Agreement on Eastern Quebec; additional funds made available when the Agreement was revised facilitated a shift in emphasis to development programs; (2) the Canada - Quebec Federal-Provincial Rural Agreement, 1971-75, which operates under the ARDA program, makes funds available to speed up implementation of an integrated resource-development program in the Saguenay - Lake St. John and northwestern Quebec areas; and (3) the Canada - Quebec Federal-Provincial Agreement Concerning the Development of Special Areas, which covers development in the Quebec City, Trois-Rivières and Sept Îles - Port Cartier regions as well as in the sub-region of the new Montreal International Airport near Ste-Scholastique.

The Ontario Economic Council, formed initially by Order in Council in 1962, was established by legislation in 1968. It was conceived as a provincial organization in which representatives of a broad cross-section of informed people could pool their knowledge and experience regarding social and economic questions, commission research and formulate policy