

applications for requirements of essential service industries outside Winnipeg. Loans are generally extended when financing is not otherwise available on reasonable terms and conditions, and provided the owner has a reasonable investment in the business.

The Communities Economic Development Fund was established in July 1971 to further the economic development of the remote and isolated communities of the province with particular emphasis on economically disadvantaged persons. Assistance usually is in the form of term loans to finance existing business enterprises and to establish new ones. Much of the assistance directed by the Fund to northern Manitoba is related to the development of business enterprises by and for people of native ancestry and loans may be made to individuals, partnerships, corporate entities, community councils and to Indian bands.

Manitoba Regional Development Corporations are non-profit organizations set up in 1964 to undertake promotion in a wide sphere of regional interests. They were conceived as a response to some of the challenges facing the rural areas of the province — population out-migration, a slow economic growth rate, and the need for action on a regional basis. Through its Regional Development Branch, the Department of Industry and Commerce has therefore encouraged the formation of regional development corporations in Manitoba with the province contributing to their operating costs. Over the past nine years, seven corporations have been established covering all of Manitoba outside of the city of Winnipeg.

Manitoba offers a number of programs to assist Manitoba companies engaged in production/processing, distribution or specialized construction. The Feasibility Studies Incentive Program assists companies in commissioning the necessary studies to develop plans for establishing or expanding manufacturing facilities in Manitoba, and in making application to obtain grant assistance from the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion. The Research and Development Assistance Program enables eligible Manitoba companies to develop innovative products or processes or methods for utilization of the natural resources of the province and allows educational institutions to undertake research and development of significant and direct economic benefit. The Productivity Improvement Program provides productivity audit analyses of individual firms and industry groups by specialists who identify problem areas, obstacles to growth and opportunities for improvement in the marketing, production, technology, manpower, organizational effectiveness and financial areas of the firm, and make recommendations suited to the needs and capabilities of the firm, including a blueprint for action. The Manpower Development Assistance Program assists Manitoba companies in analyzing productivity and designing personnel training programs to meet specific company requirements. The Design Improvement Assistance Program makes funds available to assist companies in improving the design and quality of their products. The Manitoba Export Assistance Program gives financial support to Manitoba manufacturers who wish to sell goods or services in markets outside the province. The program provides assistance by exhibiting products at trade fairs, bringing potential buyers to Manitoba and organizing sales missions, and by promoting the export of professional services.

The Manitoba Airport Assistance Program provides grants and loans to municipal airport commissions in southern Manitoba for the development, improvement and maintenance of airports, licensed for night flying by the Ministry of Transport.

Saskatchewan. The primary objectives of the recently reorganized Department of Industry and Commerce are to stimulate the growth of the Saskatchewan economy and to broaden and diversify the economic base of the province, thereby helping to increase personal income and creating job opportunities for the labour force. The activities and programs of the Department are carried out through its branch organization.

The main functions of the Industry Development Branch are to: encourage the establishment of new manufacturing, processing, distribution and warehouse facilities, resource industries and industrial service operations; assist existing firms to expand and diversify their manufacturing, service and distribution facilities; locate and evaluate development opportunities in manufacturing, processing and resource development, and in the service and warehousing sectors; and compile, publish and distribute information on all phases of Saskatchewan's economic development and potential.

The objective of the Business Assistance Branch is to revitalize and support existing business enterprises in the province by providing counselling and consulting expertise in the fields of accounting, merchandising, transportation and marketing. To make these services