

Alberta. The province assists industry through the facilities of the Alberta Opportunity Company (AOC), a Crown agency created by the Alberta Commercial Fund Act on July 1, 1972. It succeeded the Alberta Commercial Corporation and the Alberta Industrial Incentives Board.

The objective of AOC is the promotion of economic growth by stimulating the establishment of new businesses and aiding in the expansion of existing enterprises. In pursuing this objective AOC gives priority to Albertans and Alberta-owned enterprises, small businesses, centres of small population, job-creating projects, research and development projects, promotion of marketing and export potential, enhancement of tourist potential, provision of employment and business experience for Alberta students, encouragement of local development groups and promotion of pollution control projects.

In order to qualify for assistance, a business may be a proprietorship, partnership, co-operative, or corporate body, must be a business operating for gain or profit, must be located or to be located in Alberta, must provide assurance that any assistance provided will be utilized exclusively within Alberta, and must be of a type considered by the Company to be eligible within the terms of the Act and its Regulations. Eligible types of business include: manufacturing, processing and assembly operations, service industries, commercial wholesale and retail trade, recreational facilities, tourist establishments, local development organizations, student business enterprises, and new industries of any kind which are unique and valuable additions to the province. The program is not designed to apply to finance companies, suppliers of residential accommodation other than tourist facilities, public utilities including power generation and distribution, resource-based industries such as mining and quarrying, oil and gas production, logging, farming and ranching.

A number of considerations enter into the decision as to whether or not assistance will be granted: the contribution the project would make to the economy, the local community and the province as a whole; economic viability of the proposal considering capabilities of management, the business environment, adequacy of over-all financing and technical and ecological considerations; proof that the financial assistance requested is not obtainable from other conventional sources on reasonable terms and conditions; and the availability of security to provide reasonable protection. The purposes for which assistance may be provided include: establishment of new businesses, acquisition of fixed assets — land, buildings and equipment, expansion of existing facilities, strengthening working capital, financing raw material or finished inventories for manufacturers, research and development projects.

Financial assistance is made available on a direct basis or by guarantee in various forms: Capital Loans up to 80% (maximum \$500,000) of approved capital costs; Working Capital Loans (maximum \$500,000); Inventory Financing for manufacturers (maximum \$500,000) for the stockpiling of either the raw materials used in the manufacturing process or finished products resulting from that process, in actual operation AOC will purchase the inventory from the manufacturer under a buy/sell agreement at established prices to a level of 80% of "laid-in" cost or wholesale price, as the case may be; Research and Development Loans up to 50% (maximum \$10,000) of the total cost of an approved project undertaken by a commercial enterprise. Such projects are restricted to applied research and development programs which contribute to improvements in one or more of the following areas: technological advances to products or development of new products; technological advances to production facilities; adoption of improved management techniques; and development of new markets.

Business management counselling services may be provided without charge by AOC professional consultants and include management advice and guidance on financial, technical and marketing matters for small- and intermediate-size Alberta businesses which are not in a financial position to obtain this type of assistance elsewhere. Services under the program are provided through the Company's head office in Edmonton and its southern area office in Calgary. Financing programs are individually dealt with by an experienced staff of professional personnel. Applications for assistance call for suitable back-up material, such as financial statements, etc., which is studied and broadly assessed. Applications are considered for approval by the Board of Directors and, normally, funds are available in four to six weeks.

British Columbia. The functions of the Department of Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce are to encourage industry, to expand foreign trade, to investigate matters of economic importance, to collect and publish statistical information and to assist in regional industrial development. In these fields, the Department is organized to assist existing activities