

The Department maintains a readily accessible Small Business Assistance Centre which is designed to provide rapid response to all small business inquiries. The Centre has a staff of trained consultants who offer direct counselling assistance, or arrange for specialized professional advice from departmental consultants. The Department also has regional development consultants in four rural centres to provide field counselling services to entrepreneurs and local businessmen.

The Manitoba Development Corporation is a Crown corporation established in 1958. The objectives of the corporation are to assist businesses to increase productivity and to raise wage levels. The corporation encourages exports and the substitution of locally developed products for those which are imported.

The corporation provides financial assistance to businesses in the form of loans or investments or both. Technical and managerial assistance is made available in conjunction with the Manitoba Department of Industry and Commerce. The corporation also provides assistance in preparing applications for financing from banks and other sources and applications for federal and provincial grants.

The Communities Economic Development Fund, established in July 1971, provides assistance in the form of loans and loan guarantees to finance new and existing business enterprises in remote and isolated communities. Much of the aid from the Fund is directed toward the northern region of the province with the emphasis on assistance to disadvantaged persons.

Saskatchewan. The primary objectives of the 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. The Department's programs 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 accessible to business firms throughout the province, branch representatives are located at six centres outside Regina.

The Trade Development Branch is primarily involved in the promotion of trade in Saskatchewan products in regional, national and international markets, particularly in the US, Europe and the Pacific Rim. The prime contact points for this program are the office of the Agent-General in London, England, and a soon-to-be-established trade office in the Pacific Rim area.

The Tourist Development Branch undertakes activities to assist the Saskatchewan tourist industry to further its development. These activities include: carrying out a marketing program to motivate travel to and within Saskatchewan; providing advice and information to persons wishing to travel in the province; and assisting, through counselling, advice and grants, in the development of tourist attractions.

The new Research and Development Branch collects and disseminates statistical data, and prepares or contracts for, economic feasibility studies to determine what imports and new products might be produced in Saskatchewan, and what primary products can be further refined or processed in the province.

Operation Recycle is a special project initiated to administer the collection of abandoned or scrap vehicles for shredding into acceptable steel furnace feed. It is estimated that approximately 100,000 vehicles will be collected over a three-year period and other recycling projects are under active consideration.

The Industry Incentives Act encourages the establishment, expansion and modernization of industry in certain areas of the province. The program provides assistance in the form of forgivable loans to new or expanding manufacturing establishments. These loans are interest-