

**Constitutional, Administrative and International Law.** This section is responsible for coordinating and providing legal advice in the general fields of constitutional and administrative law within the Government of Canada and its various departments and agencies. It is concerned with long-term policy in constitutional affairs and with problems of federal-provincial relations. The section also deals with work in the areas of public and private international law. Canada became a member of The Hague Conference on Private International Law in 1968 and the department is responsible for Canadian participation in the conference. This section coordinates Canadian activities in relation to the conference, which meets every other year, and it has a similar role with regard to Unidroit, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law. In both public and private international law this section has a particular interest in matters concerning the countries of the British Commonwealth.

**Criminal Law.** The lawyers in this section participate in criminal litigation in every jurisdiction. They work in cooperation with members of the department's six regional offices in the prosecution of violations of federal statutes and regulations and are involved in the extradition of persons to and from Canada. An additional and very important function is the work on criminal law amendment which involves considering and assessing the suggestions for the amendment of the criminal code and certain other statutes received from many sources. The section advises the Minister of Justice with respect to these recommendations.

**Legislation.** The work of this section is concerned with the preparation of legislation from the time a topic is given approval in principle by Cabinet until the resulting enactment receives Royal Assent. The periodic revisions of the *Statutes of Canada* are also compiled here as are the office consolidations of certain acts which are prepared in the periods between major revisions.

**Policy Planning.** This section is responsible for developing legal initiatives and responses to emerging social problems. It is concerned, in cooperation with other departments and levels of government, with assessing recommendations for changes in the law proposed by the Law Reform Commission of Canada and other groups.

**Privy Council.** This section is responsible for the examination of what is sometimes called subordinate legislation. From time to time Parliament delegates certain legislative functions to other bodies and officials and it is the responsibility of this section to consult with the Clerk of the Privy Council in order to maintain general supervision over the legislative product resulting from this delegation and to consider whether it is within the authority conferred by Parliament (see Statutory Instruments Act, 1970-71, c.38). The section is asked to assume responsibility for the actual drafting of certain subordinate legislation. Lawyers in this section also act as legal advisers to the Clerk of the Privy Council and his staff.

**Programs and Law Information Development.** This section is intended to develop and administer programs of a service, research or informational nature with respect to such matters, for example, as legal aid, compensation for victims of crimes, native courtworkers and law for the layman.

**Property and Commercial Law.** This section handles all the work involved when land is required for public purposes and also deals with contracts between the government and private businesses.

**Tax Litigation.** The lawyers in this section represent the Crown in all aspects of most federal tax litigation. The section has also an advisory function on tax matters with the Department of National Revenue.

A booklet entitled *Department of Justice*, describing in detail the work of the sections, is available free upon request. It was written for recruitment purposes in 1972 and much of the information in it is still current.