

Another consisted of assistance to the provincial government in the preparation of a position paper on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Current activities include an ongoing review of manpower needs and training programs in all sectors (in consultation with provincial departments and with the federal Department of Manpower and Immigration); the development of a proposal for a manpower skills inventory in the construction industry; in conjunction with the provincial government's changes in residential and non-residential tax system, the development of new tax proposals for forest land and for agricultural land; assistance in the formation of the Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia and through that body an Atlantic Provinces' Christmas Tree Grading System; an assessment of the implications of the current spruce budworm infestation in Nova Scotia; and the completion of a background paper on energy and a review of alternative energy sources for the province.

Quebec Planning and Development Board. Under the terms of its constituent act (16-17 Elizabeth II, c.14 and QS 1969, c.16), the Quebec Planning and Development Board has a mandate to devise plans, programs and projects to develop its territory and to coordinate the implementation of such programs and development activities.

The board usually acts as a liaison office between various government departments when programs and development projects are to get under way. In such cases, the board must inform the Interdepartmental Planning and Development Committee of the way in which it intends to carry out its responsibilities and seek guidance from it. Two organizations, one government-administered and one made up of other interested parties have been set up under the act to advise the board. One is the Interdepartmental Planning and Development Committee; the other, the Quebec Planning and Development Council, is made up of representatives of the major socio-economic groups of Quebec and regional representatives nominated by regional development councils.

The board is a corporation in the meaning of the Civil Code and its personnel are under the jurisdiction of the Quebec Public Service Commission. In planning matters, the board stresses studies and research aimed at developing medium-term development of Quebec. The Regional Development Branch draws up various development plans for each region of Quebec. One other aspect of its work is coordination of the activities of all departments at the regional level through regional administrative conferences.

The Ontario Economic Council, established by legislation in 1968, was conceived as an 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 recommendations to the public and private sectors. Twenty-one Ontario citizens serve on the council representing business, industry, finance, labour, agriculture and universities. Each member serves without compensation for a term of one, two or three years.

Essentially, the council operates as an independent advisory body reporting some of its findings directly to the Ontario government and publishing others for wider distribution. Earlier reports cover the fields of immigration, government reform, poverty, urban development, social change, municipal reform and municipal waste disposal.

Until recently the council's research activities have concentrated on six areas. Four are directly concerned with major areas of public expenditure in Ontario: health, urban development, education and social security. The other two are concerned with national independence and northern Ontario development. A new area of major interest is intergovernmental relations, with shared-cost programs in health, education, urban development, and social security.

The council is preparing a study on Ontario's economic prospects over the next decade. The purpose of this paper is not primarily to provide an economic