

and assists professional firms to develop export markets for their services. It is not unusual for Manitoba to combine both Manitoba products and services by organizing consortia.

**The Enterprise Development Group** is the largest group in the department, consisting of 10 branches and two associated agencies. About 83% of all businesses in Manitoba are composed of small enterprises with 50 employees or less. This group is directly concerned with programs for such businesses. Its branches are: Small Enterprise Development; New Enterprise Formation; Diagnosis Management Counselling; Existing Enterprise Improvement; Expansion Assistance; Decentralized Program Delivery; Human Resource Management; Marketing, Distribution and Design, which works closely with the Manitoba Design Institute; Technology and Supply; and Regional and Community Coordination. The two agencies are the Manitoba Research Council and the Manitoba Design Institute.

The Science and Technology Branch carries out programs in cooperation with the Manitoba Research Council. The branch and the council jointly encourage the effective application of technology in Manitoba and advise the Minister of Industry and Commerce on matters relating to science and technology. Financial assistance for new product development is provided through the Research and Development Assistance Program; technical information and assistance through the Technical Assistance Centre; information and assistance to inventors; advice on product development and manufacturing techniques; and advice on technical subjects to provincial government departments, as well as to the federal government.

**The Economic Planning and Policy Research Group** is responsible for economic planning, evaluation, and research support. The group prepares economic reports, and conducts research and analysis leading to recommendations on economic and socio-economic issues.

The Planning Branch is directed toward improving the quality of economic research, and indicating directions for industrial development. The Policy Branch monitors the state of the national and provincial economies, and prepares reports and forecasts. The Programs Branch designs and carries out research projects directly related to the department's programs and to other government programs. The Regional Planning Branch monitors socio-economic trends in rural Manitoba. It evaluates the impact of planned, anticipated or recent developments, assists other branches in integrating statistical and local knowledge, assists in the development of regional strategies and provides a comprehensive source of data on rural Manitoba.

**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 for federal and provincial grants.

## Saskatchewan

### 17.3.8

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 Industry Development Branch** encourages the establishment of new manufacturing, processing, distribution and warehouse facilities, resource industries and industrial service operations. It assists existing firms to expand and diversify, locates and evaluates development opportunities and provides information on Saskatchewan's economic development and potential.