

Commission is responsible for appraising the evidence submitted to it by the director and the parties under investigation, and for making a report to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. When there are reasonable grounds for believing that a forbidden practice is engaged in, the director may obtain from the commission authorization to examine witnesses, search premises, or require written returns. After examining all the information available, if the director believes that it proves the existence of a forbidden practice, he submits a statement of the evidence to the commission and to the parties believed to be responsible for the practice. The commission then sets a time and place for a hearing at which both sides are represented. The commission prepares and submits a report to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs; such reports are required to be published within 30 days. At the completion of an inquiry, the director may also submit the evidence directly to the Attorney General for prosecution without going to the commission.

Effective January 1, 1976 the director may bring before the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission a broad range of business matters for review under civil procedures. The commission is empowered to issue appropriate remedial orders where serious anti-competitive effects are found. The matters include refusal to sell, tied selling, exclusive dealing, market restrictions and consignment selling. Foreign judgments, laws and directives under specific circumstances are also reviewable matters. The act also provides for civil suits by private individuals for recovery of loss or damage resulting from conduct contrary to the act.

Under the provisions of the act, general inquiries may be made into restraints of trade which, although not forbidden or punishable, may affect the public interest. In addition to imposing punishment for a contravention of the legislation, the courts, which in this instance includes the Federal Court of Canada, may issue interim injunctions restraining persons from contravening the act. Prosecutions for offences against the substantive provisions of the legislation may be taken in a superior court as defined in the Criminal Code.

**Patents.** Patents for inventions are issued under the provisions of the Patent Act (RSC 1970, c.P-4) and Patent Regulations have been proclaimed to carry into effect the objectives of the act. Applications for patents for inventions and requests for information about such patents should be addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Bureau of Intellectual Property, Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

In the year ended December 31, 1975, 20,544 patents were granted. Of these, 6.2% resulted from inventions made by residents of Canada, 5.6% by residents of Britain and 60% by residents of the United States.

Printed copies of Canadian patents issued from January 1, 1948 to date are available at \$1 each. The *Patent Office Record*, issued weekly, contains a list of patents issued during the week covered, information about services in the Patent Office and information of concern to the patent profession.

Canadian and foreign patents may be consulted at the Patent Office Library. British patents and abridged specifications thereof from 1617 to date and United States patents from 1845 to date are available, as well as many patents, indexes, journals and reports from Australia, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. A list of the foreign patents available is published in the *Patent Office Record*.

**Copyright, industrial design and timber marks.** Copyright protection is governed by the Copyright Act (RSC 1970, c.C-30) in force since 1924. Protection is automatic without any formality, although a system of voluntary registration is provided. Copyright exists in Canada in every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work and in contrivances by means of which sounds may be mechanically reproduced, if the author was, at the date of making of the work, a British subject, a citizen or subject of a foreign country