

**Export Development Corporation.** EDC operates under authority of the Export Development Act (RSC 1970, c.E-18, as amended). It is a commercially self-sustaining federal Crown corporation established to facilitate and develop Canada's export trade. EDC reports to Parliament through the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, while its affairs are administered by a 12-member board of directors. To reflect the nature of a publicly owned institution involved with the Canadian business and banking community, the board consists of senior representatives of government and the Canadian financial and private business sectors. The services of EDC are designed to assist Canadian exporters to meet international credit competition. The principal services are: export credits insurance, to insure Canadian exporters of goods and services against non-payment by foreign buyers due to credit or political events over which neither buyer nor seller has any control; long-term export loans to foreign buyers in respect of the purchase of capital goods or major services from Canada when extended terms are necessary to meet international credit competition; and foreign investment guarantees, to guarantee Canadian investments abroad against non-commercial risks such as war or revolution, expropriation or confiscation, or the inability to repatriate capital or earnings. EDC may also guarantee financial institutions against loss when they are involved in an export transaction by financing either the Canadian supplier or the foreign buyer.

**Farm Credit Corporation.** This corporation which was established on October 5, 1959 (RSC 1970, c.F-2) is a Crown corporation responsible to Parliament through the Minister of Agriculture. Under the Farm Credit Act it makes long-term mortgage loans to assist farmers in developing viable farm businesses. It also administers the Farm Syndicates Credit Act and acts as an agent of the Canada Department of Agriculture in administering the Land Transfer Plan of the Small Farm Development Program.

**Federal Business Development Bank.** The bank was established by an act of Parliament in 1974 (SC 1974-75-76, c.14) as a federal Crown corporation to succeed the Industrial Development Bank. Under the act which came into force in October 1975, FBDB assists in the establishment and development of business enterprises in Canada by providing financial and management services, and by supplementing such services available from other sources. The bank gives particular attention to the needs of small enterprises.

The board of directors consists of the president, four persons from the public service of Canada, and 10 persons from outside the public service of Canada. The bank's authorized capital is \$200 million, but it may raise additional funds by the issue and sale of debt obligations, provided that the total of the bank's direct and contingent liabilities shall not exceed 10 times its capital.

**Federal-Provincial Relations Office.** For administrative purposes, the Federal-Provincial Relations Office is regarded as a department of government under the Prime Minister. The office came into being on January 15, 1975 under legislation passed by Parliament in December 1974. For some years prior to the creation of the new office, its functions had been the responsibility of a division of the Privy Council Office. The office is headed by the Secretary to Cabinet for Federal-Provincial Relations.

In general, the work of the office consists of assisting the Prime Minister in his overall responsibility for federal-provincial relations; assisting the Cabinet in examining federal-provincial issues of current and long-term concern, including coordination and support activities for the Cabinet Committee on Federal-Provincial Relations; assisting ministers, departments, and agencies in the conduct of their relations with provincial governments; undertaking special studies as required; monitoring provincial views on federal policies and programs, and the evolution of provincial policies as they affect federal policies; and coordinating federal participation in Conferences of First Ministers.

To carry out its responsibilities the office is divided into a Secretariat, a Policy and Program Review Section, and a Studies and Research Group.

**Fisheries Prices Support Board.** Under the Fisheries Prices Support Act (RSC 1970, c.F-23) the board is responsible for investigating and, where appropriate, recommending action under the act to support prices of fishery products where declines have occurred. The board, subject to approval of the Governor in Council, is empowered to purchase fishery products at prescribed prices or to make deficiency payments to producers of fishery products equal to the difference between a prescribed price and the average price at which such products were sold. The board functions under the direction of the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment.

**Fisheries Research Board of Canada.** The board is a research body operating under an act of Parliament (RSC 1970, c.F-24) to advise the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment on national fisheries and marine research and development policies, plans and programs. The majority of the board's 18 members are senior scientists from universities and provincial agencies; the other members are senior executives from Canada's fisheries and marine industries.

**Foreign Claims Commission.** By Order in Council PC 1970-2077 of December 8, 1970 the Canadian government established the Foreign Claims Commission to inquire into property claims made by Canadian