

Property and commercial law. This section handles all work involved when land is required for public purposes and deals with contracts and commercial agreements and relations to which the federal government or its departments or agencies are party.

Tax litigation. The lawyers in this section represent the Crown in all aspects of most federal tax litigation. The section has an advisory function on tax matters with the national revenue department.

Police forces

2.7

Organization of police forces

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The police forces of Canada are organized in three groups: (1) the federal force, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP); (2) provincial police forces — Ontario and Quebec have their own police forces; the RCMP performs parallel functions in all other provinces; and (3) municipal police forces — most urban centres have their own police forces or provincial police, under contract, to attend to police matters. In addition, the Canadian National Railways, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the National Harbours Board have their own police forces.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This is a civil force maintained by the federal government. It was established in 1873 as the North-West Mounted Police for service in what was then the North-West Territories and, in recognition of its services, was granted the prefix "Royal" by King Edward VII in 1904. Its sphere of operations was expanded in 1918 to include all of Canada west of Port Arthur and Fort William (now Thunder Bay). In 1920 it absorbed the Dominion Police, its headquarters was transferred from Regina to Ottawa and its title changed to Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The force operates under authority of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act (RSC 1970, c.R-9). It is responsible to the solicitor general and is controlled and managed by a commissioner who holds the rank and status of a deputy minister and is empowered to appoint members to be peace officers in all provinces and territories.

Administration of justice within the provinces, including enforcement of the Criminal Code of Canada, is part of the power and duty delegated to the provincial governments. All provinces except Ontario and Quebec have entered into contracts with the RCMP to enforce criminal and provincial laws, under direction of the respective attorneys general. In these eight provinces, the force is under agreement to provide police services to 192 municipalities, assuming enforcement responsibility of municipal as well as criminal and provincial laws within these communities. The Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories are policed exclusively by the RCMP and therefore criminal offences, federal statutes and all ordinances of the territories fall within their responsibility. The force maintains liaison officers in London, Paris, Bonn, Rome, Hong Kong and Washington, and represents Canada in the International Criminal Police Organization, which has headquarters in Paris.

Thirteen operational divisions make up the strength of the force across Canada; they comprise two districts and 41 subdivisions which include 702 detachments. Headquarters division, as well as the office of the commissioner, is in Ottawa. Divisional headquarters, for the most part, are located in the provincial or territorial capitals.

A police information centre at RCMP headquarters is staffed and operated by the force. Law enforcement agencies throughout Canada have access via remote terminals to information on stolen vehicles, licences, wanted persons and stolen property.

The RCMP operates the Canadian Police College at which force members and selected representatives of other Canadian and foreign forces may study crime prevention and detection.

As of October 30, 1977 the force had a total authorized strength of 19,004 including regular members, special constables, civilian members and public service employees.

Ontario Provincial Police. The Ontario Provincial Police, a Crown force, is the third largest deployed force in North America with an authorized strength of more than 5,000 (1977) uniformed and civilian personnel.