

involves the private sector in analysis of government planning proposals prior to final approval.

Through this agency government has a contact with major elements of the private sector and the private sector has a forum for discussing problems and a direct channel to government for submitting co-ordinated views on development planning.

A major activity of 1976-77 was a detailed examination of implications of spruce budworm infestation in Nova Scotia. Another was assistance to the provincial government in developing new taxing arrangements for forest and agricultural land.

Activities include an examination of barriers to economic growth in Nova Scotia; an assessment of economic options open through 1990 with a focus on the developing energy crisis; an examination of implications in Canada's new 200-mile fishing limit; the monitoring of an inventory of manpower skills for the construction industry; and a review of manpower needs and training programs in all economic sectors.

Quebec Planning and Development Office. This agency has a mandate to prepare plans, programs and projects for social, economic, and territorial development which take regional characteristics into account and encourage better use of resources. It advises the government on policies and programs of various departments and promotes their integration. It co-ordinates research, studies, surveys, and inventories of other government departments and agencies and acts as a liaison office among agencies when several are involved in implementing a project.

Established by an act of the Quebec legislature in 1969, the office replaced the planning board of 1968 and the economic advisory council of 1961-68.

The Ontario Economic Council, established by legislation in 1968, represents a cross-section of informed people who pool knowledge and experience on social and economic questions, commission research and make policy recommendations to the public and private sectors. Its 21 members represent business, industry, finance, labour, agriculture and universities. Each serves without compensation for a term of one, two or three years.

Essentially, the council operates as an independent advisory body publishing its findings. Reports published in 1977 cover pension policy, day care, industrial research and development, education, transport policy, housing and land use policy and preventive medicine.

Until recently research activities have concentrated on six main areas — health, urban development, education, social security, national independence and Northern Ontario development. Two new areas of major interest are intergovernmental relations and government regulation.

9.4.2 Provincial research councils

Eight provinces have established research councils or foundations, with responsibility for assisting firms with technical problems and aiding development of provincial natural resources.

Nova Scotia has a Crown corporation with control vested in a board of directors appointed by the province. Its objective is to assist in the economic development of Nova Scotia by promoting, stimulating and encouraging effective utilization of science and technology by industry and government and to undertake, singly or in conjunction with others, such research, development, surveys, investigations and operations as may be appropriate.

The corporation's laboratories in Dartmouth were built on a site donated by the province. The staff of 91 includes 39 engineers and scientists and 37 technicians. The corporation's six scientific and technical divisions provide a strong multidisciplinary capability.

A geophysics division carries out gravity, seismic, magnetic and other surveys on land and at sea. A chemistry division stresses R&D related to minerals and other natural resources. Services are available to industry and government in inorganic and food chemistry, pollution control and chemical engineering.