

The mines engineering branch administers a part of the Mining Act requiring regular examination of all operating mines, quarries, sand and gravel pits and certain metallurgical works to ensure the health and safety of employees and the public. Regional geologists and mines engineers provide advice or support. The lands administration and surveys and mapping branches handle recording of mining claims, assessment work and preparation of title to mining lands.

Manitoba. The resources division of the Manitoba mines, resources and environmental management department offers the following services: recording staking and acquisition of Crown mineral rights; compiling assessment information and inspecting mineral rights dispositions; compiling geological data on mineral occurrences; issuing reports and maps covering geological, geophysical and geochemical surveys; operating an analytical and assay laboratory to help evaluation of mineral occurrences and classification of rocks and minerals; giving engineering approval of mining works and inspecting mining operations with regard to the health and safety of employees; controlling in-plant environmental and safety regulations; training mine rescue crews and inspecting mine rescue facilities; inspecting oil well drilling sites. A mineral disposition regulation provides an option for provincial participation in mineral exploration and development. The exploration operations branch explores for, investigates and assesses mineral occurrences in the province.

Saskatchewan. Changes in the organization of the mineral resources department in 1976 resulted in the engineering and mineral lands branches being combined to form a mines branch. The branch is responsible for: the disposition, development and conservation of all Crown minerals, except fuels; reclamation of land distributed by mining operations; environmental aspects of mining operations; and engineering studies of long-term effects of mining.

The geological survey branch carries out fundamental geoscientific activities pertinent to the evaluation of the province's mineral potential.

A petroleum and natural gas branch is responsible for resource conservation, engineering and environmental management functions with regard to oil, natural gas and pipelines.

The potash management branch is responsible for development, production, disposition and conservation of potash resources in Saskatchewan and taxation related to these resources.

The government announced in November 1975 a policy of acquiring at least 50% ownership in the province's potash industry. The Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Act, 1976, established a corporation that may own and operate potash mines and manufacture and deal in all kinds of fertilizers. It also may enter into joint or other ventures relating to the industry.

Officers of the mines safety branch of the labour department make regular examinations of all mines to ensure proper conditions for health and safety. Safety education is also part of the work of this branch.

Alberta. A new energy resources department was formed in 1975 out of the predecessor departments of lands and forests and mines and minerals. The new department is responsible for energy resources and renewable resources. Energy resources include a Syncrude equity division, economic planning and systems division, finance division and energy resources division. The Syncrude division manages Alberta's 10% equity participation in the Syncrude project, negotiation of agreements on behalf of the province and the provision of management liaison.

The economic planning division provides analysis and interpretation of economic data for all forms of energy for consideration in formulation of revenue management policies.

The finance division manages collection and verification of petroleum, natural gas, coal and other royalties. It also collects lease rentals, mineral taxes, revenue from sales of Crown reserves, incidental revenues and provides accounting and budget services.

Energy resources is responsible for advice in the management of mineral resources, assists in policy formulation and is responsible for administration and management of