

Measurement. The Weights and Measures Act prescribes the legal standards of weight and measure for use in Canada; it also ensures control of the types of all weighing and measuring devices used for commercial purposes, and provides for in-use surveillance directed toward the elimination of device-tampering and short-weight sales. A replacing act was passed by Parliament and new regulations were proclaimed in August 1974. The fundamental objectives of earlier legislation remain unchanged. The act is complementary to consumer packaging and labelling legislation.

The Electricity Inspection Act and the Gas Inspection Act control the approval before sale and the use of instruments used for billing of electricity and gas whether by meter or other type of device; they also provide for continual in-use inspection.

Corporations. The bureau of corporate affairs is concerned with much of the general legal framework that governs the orderly conduct of business under federal jurisdiction. The bureau is subdivided into branches for bankruptcy, corporations and corporate research.

The corporations branch administers the Canada Business Corporations Act, the Canada Corporations Act, the Canada Co-operatives Association Act and the Boards of Trade Act. The branch has a statutory duty to issue formal documents in connection with corporations created under other federal acts such as the Loan Companies Act, Trust Companies Act, the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, and the Railway Act.

All federal corporations other than those carrying on business as financial intermediaries must be incorporated under the Canada Business Corporations Act, proclaimed in December 1975. However, because that act does not repeal the old Canada Corporations Act until December 15, 1980, the branch is required to administer corporations subject to either act until that date. This policy of gradual implementation of the Canada Business Corporations Act was adopted to enable corporations to effect transition from the old to the new act with a minimum of pressure and inconvenience following a relatively simple continuance procedure. One part of the Canada Corporations Act continues to apply to all federal charitable and membership corporations.

Ancillary to its formal activities, the branch furnishes to the public copies of corporate documents and information about registered corporate names and trade marks. In 1976-77 the branch issued 17,000 documents compared to 23,000 in 1975-76; this drop reflects a decision to discontinue providing copies of financial statements which are published in monthly issues of the *Bureau of Corporate Affairs Bulletin*. There were also 32,895 registered corporate name and trade mark searches made, an increase of 11,038 from 1975-76.

By March 31, 1977 full automation of all name search services for information on registered corporate names and trade marks neared completion. The branch maintains a computerized file on approximately 500,000 corporate entities that exist in Canada (30,000 of which are federally incorporated) and a list of close to 150,000 registered trade marks.

Two programs begun in 1977 include plans for a national food strategy for Canada and energy conservation in use of large electrical household appliances. In conjunction with other federal departments and the provinces, the department conducts investigations to ensure that food strategy will provide Canadians with reasonably-priced, nutritious food while at the same time maintaining a strong, competitive food industry in Canada. With regard to energy conservation, the consumer and corporate affairs department takes the position that non-renewable energy sources will not last forever and that part of the answer lies in resource conservation and more efficient use of energy.

17.5 Bankruptcies and commercial failures

Two series of figures are included in this chapter which, although closely related in subject matter, cover different aspects of the field of bankruptcies and commercial failures. Table 17.13 is limited to the supervision, by the superintendent of bankruptcy,