

defence. He is also responsible for construction and maintenance of all defence establishments and facilities required to defend Canada.

The deputy minister is the senior public servant in the department and the principal civilian adviser to the minister on all departmental affairs. He is responsible for ensuring that all policy direction from the government is reflected in the administration of the department and in military plans and operations. The chief of the defence staff is the senior military adviser to the minister and is charged with the control and administration of the forces. He is responsible for the effective conduct of military operations and the readiness of the Canadian forces to meet the commitments assigned to them by the government.

A defence council, consisting of the minister of national defence as chairman, the deputy minister of national defence, the chief of the defence staff, the chairman of the Defence Research Board, the vice-chief of the defence staff, the assistant deputy minister (policy), and the deputy chief of defence staff, meets as required to consider and advise on major policy matters. The Crown corporation Defence Construction (1951) Limited reports to Parliament through the minister of national defence.

Department of National Health and Welfare (Health and Welfare Canada). This department was established in October 1944 under the Department of National Health and Welfare Act (RSC 1970, c.N-9). The deputy minister of national health and welfare administers 10 branches: health programs, health protection, medical services, long-range health planning, administration, social services programs, income security programs, policy research and long-range planning (welfare), and welfare information systems; fitness and amateur sport is a branch of the department reporting to Parliament through the minister of state for fitness and amateur sport.

Departmental programs on health include hospital insurance and diagnostic services, medical care insurance, health resources, food and drug supervision, narcotics control, federal emergency health services, environmental health, adverse drug reaction reporting, operation of a central clearing house for poison control centres, health, medical and hospital services to Indians and Inuit across Canada and all residents of the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories, government employee health services and leprosy control as well as assistance and consultation services to the provinces on request.

Welfare programs include the Canada Pension Plan, old age security and guaranteed income supplements, family allowances, the Canada Assistance Plan and emergency welfare services. There are also developmental programs, including national welfare grants, family planning grants and information and grants to groups of retired persons.

The National Council of Welfare reports directly to the minister who also reports to Parliament for the Medical Research Council.

Department of National Revenue (Revenue Canada Customs and Excise, Revenue Canada Taxation). From Confederation until May 1918, customs and inland revenue acts were administered by separate departments; after that date they were amalgamated under one minister as the Department of Customs and Internal Revenue. In 1921 the name was changed to the Department of Customs and Excise. In April 1924 collection of income taxes was placed under the minister of customs and excise and, under the Department of National Revenue Act, 1927, the department became known as the Department of National Revenue. It operates now under the Income Tax Act, SC 1970-71-72, c.63, as amended.

The customs and excise component is responsible for assessment and collection of customs and excise duties as well as of sales and excise taxes. The taxation component is responsible for assessment and collection of income taxes, Part I of the Canada Pension Plan, and collection of premiums and administration of the coverage provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act through its 28 district taxation offices, head office and taxation data centres in Ottawa and Winnipeg.

Department of Public Works (Public Works Canada). This department was constituted in 1867 and operates under the legislative authority of the Public Works Act (RSC 1970, c.P-38). The department is the primary agent of the federal government in the development and management of real property, providing office accommodation for some 90 federal departments and agencies, together with architectural, engineering, construction management and realty services for special purpose facilities. The department also has responsibilities in transportation (roads) and marine (dredging) works. It is decentralized, with regional headquarters at Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver, and subsidiary offices in all but the Ottawa region. Main line functions are design and construction, realty planning and development and realty services plus departmental planning and co-ordination (including policy research) and technological research and development; in addition, the dominion fire commissioner operates under the authority of the minister of public works, with responsibility for protection of life of occupants of government property and for the minimization of property loss as a result of fire.

Department of Regional Economic Expansion. This department was established in 1969 (RSC 1970, c.R-4). Its objective is to facilitate economic growth and social adjustment in Canada through federal-provincial agreements, special programs and other activities designed to increase, and improve access to, development opportunities in various regions of the country. DREE's present activities are divided into three major areas: general development agreements, industrial incentives and other programs.