

The office assists the prime minister in his overall responsibility for federal-provincial relations; assists the Cabinet in examining federal-provincial issues of concern, including co-ordination and support activities for the Cabinet committee on federal-provincial relations; assists the minister of state for federal-provincial relations in the performance of his duties; assists ministers, departments, and agencies in the conduct of their relations with provincial governments; undertakes special studies as required; monitors provincial views on federal policies and programs and the evolution of provincial policies as they affect federal policies; and co-ordinates federal participation in conferences of first ministers.

**Fisheries Prices Support Board.** Under the Fisheries Prices Support Act (RSC 1970, c.F-23) the board is responsible for investigating and, where appropriate, recommending action to support prices of fishery products where declines have occurred. Subject to approval of the Cabinet, it is empowered to purchase fishery products at prescribed prices or to make deficiency payments to producers of fishery products equal to the difference between a prescribed price and the average price at which such products were sold. The board functions under the direction of the minister of fisheries and the environment.

**Fisheries Research Board of Canada.** The board is a research body operating under an act of Parliament (RSC 1970, c.F-24) to advise the minister of fisheries and the environment on national fisheries and marine research and development policies, plans and programs. The majority of the board's 18 members are senior scientists from universities and provincial agencies; the other members are senior executives from Canada's fisheries and marine industries.

**Foreign Claims Commission.** By order-in-council PC 1970-2077 of December 1970, the Canadian government established this commission to inquire into property claims made by Canadian citizens and the federal government against foreign countries which may, from time to time, be referred to the commission by the government. The reference is made after the government has negotiated a financial agreement with the foreign country. The commissioners submit reports and recommendations regarding each claim to the secretary of state for external affairs and the minister of finance, stating whether, in the opinion of the commissioners, each claimant is eligible to receive a payment under regulations promulgated from time to time by order-in-council. Up to December 31, 1976 claims against Hungary, Romania, Poland and Czechoslovakia had been referred to the commission. The claims against the two first-mentioned countries have been dealt with and in 1977 the commission was nearing completion of its work on claims against Poland and Czechoslovakia.

**Foreign Investment Review Agency.** The agency was established on April 9, 1974 by proclamation of the Foreign Investment Review Act (SC 1973-74, c.46). It assesses whether there is or will be significant benefit to Canada in proposals by non-Canadians regarding acquisition of control of Canadian business enterprises or establishment of new businesses in Canada. The agency is responsible to the minister of industry, trade and commerce.

**Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.** This corporation was established under the Freshwater Fish Marketing Act of 1969 (RSC 1970, c.F-13) and given the function of marketing and trading in fish, fish products and fish byproducts in and out of Canada with the objectives of ensuring more orderly marketing for the benefit of the whole fishery and achieving higher and more stable prices for the catch. The corporation received a grant for initial operating and establishment expenses but conducts its operations on a self-sustaining basis without parliamentary appropriations; it is financed by bank loans with government guarantee of repayment, or by direct loans. The corporation consists of a board of directors composed of a chairman, a president, one director for each participating province and four other directors appointed by the Governor-in-Council for a term not exceeding five years. The corporation reports to Parliament through the minister of fisheries and the environment.

**Grains Group.** In 1970 the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board (the minister of transport at present) organized a special advisory group on grains (Grains Group) to co-ordinate, review and recommend federal policies for grain production, transportation and handling, and marketing. The minister responsible for the wheat board serves as the chairman of the group. A group co-ordinator and three advisers for the areas of production, transportation and handling, and marketing are drawn from the federal departments of agriculture, industry, trade and commerce, and transport. Offices of the Grains Group are in Ottawa.

**Heritage Canada.** Established under the Canada Corporations Act (RSC 1970, c.C-32), Heritage Canada is a national trust independent of government. It is concerned with the conservation of buildings, sites and natural areas of importance to the country's heritage. Its work is financed by memberships, contributions and the interest on an endowment fund to which the federal government granted \$12 million. Heritage Canada seeks to enlist the support of the general public, foundations and corporations; membership is open to anyone.