

sound recordings and films relating to Canada. A specialized library is also at the disposal of searchers. The records management branch operates a large records centre in Ottawa and regional centres in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Halifax where non-current departmental records are centralized, stored and serviced and assists departments in their records management programs. The administration and technical services branch operates the central microfilm unit for federal departments.

Under the terms of the Laurier House Act (RSC 1952, c.163), the public archives is responsible for the administration of Laurier House in Ottawa as a museum.

Public Service Commission. Arrangements were made for civil service appointments under the first Civil Service Act of 1868 but the first civil service commission was not created until 1908. This established the beginnings of the merit system in the public service. The Civil Service Act of 1918 gave the commission authority to control recruitment, selection, appointment, classification and organization and to recommend rates of pay. The next Civil Service Act in 1961 strengthened the principles of the merit system, clarified the commission's role in other areas of personnel administration, and gave staff associations the right to be consulted on remuneration and conditions of employment.

The Public Service Employment Act (RSC 1970, c.P-32) which came into force in March 1967, redefined the commission's role as the central staffing agency and extended its authority to cover certain groups of employees exempt from the previous acts. The public service is specified in the Public Service Staff Relations Act. It does not include Crown corporations, such as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canadian National Railways and Air Canada. The new act reaffirmed the merit principle, and permitted delegation of the commission's authority, although not its responsibility to Parliament. Under the act, the commission was relieved of responsibility for recommending rates of pay and conditions of service to the government, for classification, and for consultation with staff associations on matters that are now the subject of collective bargaining.

In November 1972 the commission was assigned the duty, by order-in-council PC 1972-2569, of investigating cases of alleged discrimination on grounds of sex, race, national origin, colour or religion with respect to the application and operation of the Public Service Employment Act; the appeals and investigation branch is responsible for this function.

The Public Service Commission reports directly to Parliament. The secretary of state has traditionally been the minister who presents the commission's report to the House of Commons, and answers parliamentary questions on the commission's behalf.

Public Service Staff Relations Board. Established in 1967 by the Public Service Staff Relations Act (RSC 1970, c.P-35, as amended by SC 1972, c.18, SC 1973-74, c.15 and SC 1974-75-76, c.67), the board is an independent body responsible for determining bargaining units, certifying bargaining agents, dealing with complaints of unfair practices and generally overseeing the administration of legislation providing for collective bargaining in the public service. The board's full-time chairman, vice-chairman and not less than three deputy chairmen hold office for a period not exceeding 10 years; such other full-time members and part-time members as the Governor-in-Council considers necessary hold office for a period not exceeding seven years. Information on compensation and other conditions of employment is provided to employers and bargaining agents, primarily in the public service, by the pay research bureau which is under the administrative direction of the board. The Public Service Staff Relations Board reports to Parliament through a minister of the Crown designated by the Governor-in-Council. At present the responsible minister is the president of the privy council.

Queen Elizabeth II Canadian Research Fund. The Queen Elizabeth II Canadian Research Fund Act (SC 1959, c.33) established a fund of \$1 million to be administered by a board of trustees to aid in research on children's diseases. The prime minister reports to Parliament on operations of this fund.

Regional Development Incentives Board. This board was established under the Regional Development Incentives Act 1968-69 (RSC 1970, c.R-3). It provides advice to the minister of regional economic expansion on matters respecting the administration of the act, particularly on applications for incentives relating to projects over a specified size or involving loan guarantees or sensitive industries. The board meets monthly and consists of representatives of various federal departments and agencies including environment, finance, the foreign investment review agency, employment and immigration, and industry, trade and commerce.

Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. The commission was established by the Combines Investigation Act (RSC 1970, c.C-23 as amended by SC 1974-75-76, c.76). In respect of trade practices contained in Part IV. 1 of the act, on application of the director of investigation and research and after holding a hearing at which evidence is submitted by the director and by the party against whom an order is sought, the commission may issue an order prohibiting the practice. In respect of restrictive trade practices contained in Part V of the act, the commission may hold hearings and appraise evidence submitted by the director and the parties under investigation, to report to the minister of consumer and corporate affairs.