

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) was established in 1935 (RSC 1970, c.P-17) to assist in the mitigation of drought in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. PFRA became an agency of the regional economic expansion department (DREE) when it was formed in 1969. It operates 89 community pastures on 929 000 ha (hectares) of land, submarginal for cereal production. PFRA has constructed many large irrigation and water storage projects and assisted technically and financially in 152,000 dugouts, wells, dams and irrigation projects for on-farm water supplies. A PFRA tree nursery has distributed more than 400 million tree seedlings to farmers for farm and field shelterbelts. Until 1982 PFRA will be engaged in a \$15.3 million water development and drought proofing project, which began in 1979, cost shared with Saskatchewan.

Privacy Commissioner. A member of the Canadian Human Rights Commission is designated by the minister of justice on the recommendation of the chief commissioner to act as privacy commissioner. The office was established by the Canadian Human Rights Act (SC 1976-77, c.33) to receive, investigate and report on complaints from individuals who allege that they have not been accorded the rights stipulated in the Human Rights Act to which they are entitled; namely, the right of access to, correction of, or comment upon personal information about them in federal information banks. Every investigation by the privacy commissioner is conducted in private. The commissioner reports to Parliament through the minister of justice.

Privy Council Office. For administrative purposes, the office is regarded as a department of government for which the prime minister has responsibility as set forth in order-in-council PC 1962-240. The clerk of the Privy Council, under whose direction its functions are carried out, is considered as a deputy head and takes precedence among the chief officers of the public service. The genesis of the office is in Sections 11 and 130 of the British North America Act, 1867, which constituted a council to aid and advise in the Government of Canada, to be styled the Queen's Privy Council for Canada. In 1940, with the wartime development of cabinet committees and the consequent need for orderly secretarial procedures such as agenda, explanatory memoranda and minutes, the clerk of the Privy Council was designated secretary to the cabinet, and the cabinet secretariat was brought into being in the Privy Council office. Since 1946, the office has been further reorganized, developed and enlarged and certain of its administrative support functions and those of the prime minister's office have been closely integrated in the interests of efficiency and economy.

The organization consists primarily of the cabinet secretariat with two divisions reporting to the clerk of the Privy Council and secretary to the cabinet and to the associate secretary to the cabinet. Each division contains a number of secretariats that support the cabinet and its committees. The secretariats prepare and circulate agenda and necessary documents to ministers, and record and circulate decisions. They communicate with government departments and agencies and provide advisory support for the prime minister. Other sections of the office advise the prime minister on senior appointments, constitutional matters, emergency planning, and the exercise of his prerogative to allocate responsibilities between ministers. Submissions to the Governor-in-Council are received, draft orders and regulations are prepared, approved orders are circulated and the federal statutory regulations are edited, registered and published in the *Canada Gazette*.

Public Archives of Canada (Public Archives Canada). The public archives was founded in 1872 and is administered under the Public Archives Act (RSC 1970, c.P-27) by the dominion archivist who has the rank of a deputy minister and reports to Parliament through the secretary of state. Its purpose is to assemble, conserve and make available a comprehensive collection of source material relating to the history of Canada. It also has broad responsibilities to promote efficiency and economy in the management of federal government records. The archives branch in the National Library and Archives Building is a centre for research on the development of Canada. In addition to selected records of the federal government, it possesses an extensive collection of private papers of individuals and societies, a map collection which is the most important of its kind in the country, and extensive collections of paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, machine readable data, sound recordings and films relating to Canada. A specialized library is also at the disposal of researchers. 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 departmental administration 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 introduced the principle of selection by merit as established by competitive examination. 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 Civil Service Act of 1961 strengthened the principles of