

auditors, political parties and candidates where specified by the act.

Since 1979, the chief electoral officer is responsible for providing the 11 electoral boundaries commissions with the number of members of the House of Commons attributed to each province, pursuant to a formula prescribed by the Constitution Act. He must supply each of these commissions, established under the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act (one for each province and one for Northwest Territories), with a copy of the official statement received from the Chief Statistician of Canada setting out the population based on the last decennial census and prepare maps showing the population distribution in each province.

Columbia River Treaty Permanent Engineering Board.

The permanent engineering board, consisting of two Canadians and two Americans, was established under the 1964 Columbia River Treaty between Canada and the United States. The board assembles records and inspects and reports at least annually on matters within the scope of the treaty. It reports to Parliament through the minister of energy, mines and resources.

Commissioner of Official Languages. Appointed by Parliament pursuant to the Official Languages Act (RSC 1970, c.O-2), the commissioner holds office for a term of seven years, and is eligible to be re-appointed for a further term not exceeding seven years. He is responsible to Parliament for ensuring recognition of the equal status of French and English as Canada's official languages and for ensuring compliance with the spirit and intent of the act in all the institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada. The commissioner is empowered to receive and investigate complaints from the public and, on his own initiative, to conduct investigations into possible violations of the act. The results of investigations must be communicated to the complainants and the institutions concerned and may, at the commissioner's discretion, be the subject of a special report to Parliament. The commissioner reports annually to Parliament on the conduct of his office and the discharge of his duties, and may make recommendations for changes in the act as he deems necessary or desirable.

Communications, Department of (Communications Canada). The department was established under the 1969 Government Organization Act and operates under authority of the Department of Communications Act (RSC 1970, c.C-24). The minister of communications is responsible for fostering the orderly operation and development of communications for Canada. This includes recommending national policies and programs regarding communications services for Canada, promoting the efficiency and growth of Canadian communications systems and helping them adjust to changing conditions, and encouraging development and introduction of new communication facilities and resources. Responsibilities also include managing the radio frequency spectrum to permit orderly use of radio communications, protecting Canadian interests in international telecommunications matters, and co-ordinating telecommunications services for departments and agencies of the federal government.

Teleglobe Canada, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission and Telesat Canada

report to Parliament through the minister of communications.

The department also has a mandate to ensure that new technologies serve the nation's social, economic, artistic and cultural needs, through programs and services such as a program of cultural initiatives and a Canadian book publishing development program.

Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Department of

(Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada). This department was established in 1967 (RSC 1970, c.C-27) replacing the Department of the Registrar General of Canada. The duties, powers and functions of the minister extend to and include all matters over which Parliament has jurisdiction, not by law assigned to any other department, branch or agency of the federal government, relating to: consumer affairs; corporations and corporate securities; combines, mergers, monopolies and restraint of trade; bankruptcies and insolvencies; and patents, copyrights, trade marks and industrial design.

The functions of the department are divided into three main areas. The consumer affairs bureau co-ordinates government activities in the consumer field and supervises the department's field operations across Canada; the corporate affairs bureau administers the government's corporate activities, laws and regulations, including those pertaining to patents, trade marks, industrial design and copyright; competition policy is regulated by the competition policy bureau. As registrar general of Canada, the minister of consumer and corporate affairs is the custodian of the Great Seal of Canada, the Privy Seal of the Governor General, the seal of the administrator of Canada and the seal of the registrar general of Canada. The Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (Combines Investigation Act) is part of the department and reports directly to the minister.

Copyright Appeal Board (Copyright Appeal Board

Canada). The board approves fees, charges and royalties to be collected annually by performing rights societies for the use of their members' music in Canada. The Copyright Act (RSC 1970, c.C-30) empowers the board to consider statements of proposed fees and any objections filed by those using the music. Only the amount of the fees may be considered; the board has no authority to set terms and conditions. Public hearings are held to consider objections to proposals. Decisions of the board are final and binding and are transmitted to the minister of consumer and corporate affairs for publication in the *Canada Gazette*. The board consists of three members appointed by the Governor-in-Council; the chairman must hold or have held high judicial office, the other two members must be public servants of Canada.

Correctional Investigator (Correctional Investigator

Canada). Appointed by order-in-council PC 1973-1431 in June 1973 as a commissioner under Part II of the Inquiries Act, the correctional investigator has the power to investigate on his own initiative, on request from the solicitor general of Canada, or on complaint from or on behalf of inmates, as defined in the Penitentiary Act, and report upon problems of inmates that come within the responsibility of the solicitor general. The office is in Ottawa and is independent of the Correctional Service of Canada.