

matters of law connected with their departments, to settle and approve all instruments issued under the Great Seal of Canada, and to regulate and conduct all litigation for or against the Crown in the right of Canada. The minister also recommends to cabinet the selection of judges for the Supreme Court and the Federal Court of Canada as well as judges of superior, county and district courts. Amendments to the Judges Act now provide that the commissioner for federal-judicial affairs rather than the department is responsible for the administration of the Federal Court of Canada and for the administration of the salaries and pensions of other federally appointed judges. Responsibility for administration of the Supreme Court of Canada rests with the registrar. These matters remain the ultimate responsibility of the minister who submits the estimates for the courts and judges to Parliament. The minister of justice reports to Parliament for the Tax Court of Canada, the Law Reform Commission of Canada and the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

**Labour, Department of (Labour Canada).** The department was established in 1900 by an act of Parliament (SC 1900, c.24) and now operates under the authority of the Department of Labour Act (RSC 1970, c.L-2). Although labour legislation is primarily a provincial responsibility, Labour Canada, through the Canada Labour Code, regulates minimum labour standards, occupational safety and health, and industrial relations for about 600,000 Canadians who work in the federal jurisdiction. This covers such industries as interprovincial and international rail, road and pipeline transportation, shipping and related services, air transportation, interprovincial and international telecommunications, banks, certain Crown corporations, and industries declared to be for the general advantage of Canada, such as grain handling and uranium mining.

The department assists all parties in the collective bargaining process by providing mediation and conciliation to resolve labour disputes, preventive mediation, and grievance arbitration during the life of collective agreements in the federal jurisdiction.

Labour Canada also administers the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, which applies to workers on federal construction works, the Merchant Seamen Compensation Act and the Government Employees Compensation Act. The department collects, analyzes and distributes a wide range of data and information on labour issues in Canada, and acts as the official liaison agency between Canada and the International Labour Organization. Through labour education and quality of working life programs, the department provides incentive grants aimed at improving union-management relations.

The Canada Labour Relations Board and the Labour Adjustment Review Board receive administrative support from Labour Canada and report to Parliament through the minister of labour.

**Law Reform Commission of Canada.** This commission was established (RSC 1970, c.23, 1st Supp.) as a permanent body to study and keep the laws of Canada under continuing and systematic review. The commission makes recommendations for the improvement, modernization and reform of federal laws including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing: the removal of anachronisms

and anomalies in the law; the reflection in and by the law of the distinctive concepts and institutions of the common law and civil law legal systems in Canada, and the reconciliation of differences and discrepancies in the expression and application of the law arising out of differences in those concepts and institutions; the elimination of obsolete laws; and the development of new approaches to and new concepts of the law in keeping with and responsive to the changing needs of Canadian society and its individual members. The commission reports to Parliament through the minister of justice.

**Library of Parliament.** This library was established by an act in relation to the Library of Parliament (SC 1871, c.21) now the Library of Parliament Act (RSC 1970, c.L-7). The library had been formed initially by the amalgamation of the legislative libraries of Upper and Lower Canada following their unification as the Province of Canada in 1841. The library is designated as a department within the meaning and purpose of the Financial Administration Act, the parliamentary librarian holding the rank of deputy minister. The parliamentary and the associate parliamentary librarians are appointed by the Governor-in-Council. The parliamentary librarian under the speaker of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Commons, assisted by a joint committee appointed by the two houses, is responsible for the control and management of the library including the branch libraries, the parliamentary reading room and the Confederation Building reading room. Persons entitled to borrow from the library are the Governor General, members of the Privy Council, the Senate and the House of Commons, officers of the two houses, judges of the Supreme Court of Canada and Federal Courts of Canada, and members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. Research services to parliamentarians include the preparation of in-depth studies, background papers and current issue reviews. Additionally, research officers provide oral briefings or continuing assistance to parliamentary committees. Information and reference services include answering queries; indexing Senate committee minutes of proceedings and reports; maintaining extensive clipping files; providing a daily clipping service; bibliographies on request and computerized literature searches; and acting as an information centre for parliamentary information. The library's collection is accessible to other libraries through interlibrary loan.

**Machinery and Equipment Advisory Board.** This board, established in 1968, is responsible for considering applications for remission of duty on certain machinery and equipment and advising the minister of industry, trade and commerce as to the eligibility of such machinery for remission of customs duty. The board is composed of a chairman and the deputy ministers of industry, trade and commerce, finance and national revenue. The objective of the machinery program is to increase efficiency in Canadian industry by enabling machinery users to acquire advanced equipment at the lowest possible cost while affording tariff protection on machinery produced in Canada.

**Maritime Pollution Claims Fund.** Under the Canada Shipping Act (SC 1971, c.27), a strict liability is created on the part of a shipowner discharging oil from a ship in