

Four autonomous Crown corporations, Air Canada, Canadian National Railways, VIA Rail Inc. and the Northern Transportation Co. Ltd. report to Parliament through the minister of transport.

**Treasury Board** (Treasury Board of Canada). The board was established as a committee of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada by order-in-council PC 3 of July 2, 1867, and was made a statutory committee in 1869. The minister of finance was appointed chairman of the board, with four other privy councillors to be designated as members by the Governor-in-Council. The secretary of the board and the members of his staff were employed by the finance department.

By the Government Organization Act, 1966 (SC 1966, c.25) the secretariat was established as a separate department of government with its own minister, the president of the board. The committee constituting the board includes, in addition to the president, the minister of finance and four other privy councillors.

The Financial Administration Act (RSC 1970, c.F-10) defines the board's responsibilities as the central management agency of government. These responsibilities include the organization of the public service, financial management, annual and longer-term expenditure planning, and expenditure control, including allocation of resources among departments and agencies of government; management of personnel functions in the public service; and improvement in the efficiency of management and administration in the public service.

To meet these responsibilities, the board has two administrative arms: the Treasury Board secretariat and the office of the comptroller general. The Treasury Board secretariat has four branches: administrative policy, official languages, personnel policy and program. The office of the comptroller general, created in 1978, has three branches: policy development, program evaluation and management practices.

**Umpire, Office of the.** This office was established to provide administrative support and administrative services to the umpires (12) constituted under the Unemployment Insurance Act as an independent judicial authority to hear and determine appeals against boards of referees decisions in unemployment insurance matters. The chief umpire is the associate chief justice of the Federal Court of Canada. The office of the umpire is in Ottawa.

**Uranium Canada, Ltd.** This company was incorporated in June 1971 under the Canada Corporations Act (RSC 1970, c.C-32) pursuant to the Appropriation Act No. 1, 1971, and the Atomic Energy Control Act, (RSC 1970, c.A-19). The corporation was continued under the Canada Business Corporations Act by certificate of continuance in November 1980. Objects of the corporation are to negotiate, execute and perform agreements for the purchase, stockpiling and sale of uranium concentrates and to do anything necessary or incidental thereto, subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Council. The company has been dormant since May 1981 when the assets it was administering for Canada, the general stockpile of uranium concentrates, were transferred to Eldorado Nuclear Ltd.

**Veterans Affairs, Department of** (Veterans Affairs Canada). This department, established in 1944 (RSC 1970,

c.V-1), is concerned exclusively with the well-being of veterans, their dependents and certain civilians. The department provides treatment services (hospital, medical, dental and prosthetic), counselling services, education assistance, life insurance, and land settlement and home construction assistance. The department operates a hospital and two veterans homes, maintains contract beds in hospitals across Canada and has administrative offices in the larger cities.

The Canadian Pension Commission, the War Veterans Allowance Board, the Bureau of Pensions Advocates, the Pension Review Board and the Army Benevolent Fund Board report to Parliament through the minister of veterans affairs.

**VIA Rail Canada, Inc.** became a Crown corporation, in April 1978. The corporation is financed by the federal government. It provides, manages and operates all passenger railway services in Canada with the exception of commuter trains and operates a network of train services covering Canada from coast to coast. These services range from the transcontinental trains to the fast intercity trains serving parts of Eastern Canada. VIA's fleet of vehicle equipment includes conventional coaches, sleeping cars, meal service cars, and ultramodern LRC (light, rapid, comfortable) trains. VIA Rail took over the marketing function in June 1977 and became totally responsible for the management of CN and CP rail's passenger services in April 1979. The corporation consists of a board of directors composed of three to 15 members including a chairman, president and chief executive officer. Head offices are in Montréal and the corporation reports to the minister of transport.

**War Veterans Allowance Board.** This board, established under the authority of the War Veterans Allowance Act, is a quasi-judicial body of eight full-time members, including a chairman and deputy chairman, appointed by the Governor-in-Council. It is independent as far as its decisions are concerned and reports to Parliament through the minister of veterans affairs. It is administratively co-ordinated with the department of veterans affairs which provides support services. The board has responsibility, under the War Veterans Allowance Act and Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, to act as a court of appeal for aggrieved applicants and recipients; to review decisions of the district authorities to ensure that adjudication is consistent with the intent and purview of the legislation and that the legislation is applied uniformly throughout Canada; to adjudicate pursuant to specific sections of the acts where the board has sole jurisdiction; to provide interpretation of the acts and regulations, and to advise the minister on regulations under the acts. The board also issues precedent decisions which continuously refine the jurisprudence related to the legislation.

**Youth, Minister of State for.** The federal government appointed its first minister of state for youth in January 1984. The minister's mandate is to work with the secretary of state and the minister of employment and immigration as they carry out their functions with regard to youth. The minister represents the views of young people during cabinet deliberations and is responsible for three programs: