

enterprises. AOC gives priority to Albertans and Alberta-owned enterprises, small businesses and centres of small population.

To qualify for assistance, a business may be a proprietorship, partnership, co-operative or corporate body, must operate for gain or profit, must be in Alberta and must provide assurance that any aid given will be used exclusively in Alberta. Eligible businesses include manufacturing, processing and assembly operations, service industries, commercial wholesale and retail trade, recreational facilities, tourist establishments, local development organizations, student business enterprises and new industries which are unique and valuable additions to the province. The program is not designed for finance companies, suppliers of residential accommodation other than tourist facilities, public utilities including power generation and distribution, or resource-based industries such as mining and oil and gas production.

Assistance may provide for establishing new businesses, acquiring fixed assets — land, buildings and equipment — expanding existing facilities, strengthening working capital, financing raw material or finished inventories for manufacturers, and research and development. Funds are made available directly or by guarantee in various forms.

AOC also has established a venture capital division which provides investment in companies involved in leading edge technology, requiring early-stage investment.

Business counselling services of AOC include management advice and guidance on financial, technical and marketing matters for small and intermediate-sized Alberta businesses which cannot afford to obtain this type of help elsewhere. Services are provided through the company's head office in Ponoka and branch offices in Calgary, Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, St. Paul, Medicine

Hat, Edson, Edmonton, Peace River, Lloydminster, Red Deer and Brooks.

British Columbia. Goals of British Columbia's economic strategy are enhanced regional development; economic and industrial diversification; sustained employment growth; and price and real income stability.

British Columbia has adopted a new approach to building a dynamic economy through strong regional economies in all parts of the province. This is being accomplished through the formation of eight new development regions, each with its own Minister of State, and increased involvement of communities and local groups in setting regional priorities.

The Ministry of Regional Development's economic diversification and policy division advises on development strategies and provides policy options, as well as undertaking economic analyses. In addition, it assesses major industrial projects and proposals, determining possible complementary action that will facilitate their realization.

The Ministry's business promotion division implements and co-ordinates a variety of information, advisory and financial incentive initiatives to stimulate the start-up and expansion of enterprises in all regions of the province. Special emphasis is placed on entrepreneurial and self-help actions at the local level.

The Ministry of International Business and Immigration assists British Columbia firms in identifying and capturing emerging market opportunities in Canada and abroad. In addition, it helps to promote the province as a positive investment location and reviews prospective business immigrant proposals. Offices are maintained in England, Federal Republic of Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Los Angeles, as well as British Columbia House in Ottawa.

Sources

- 16.1 Industry Division, Statistics Canada.
- 16.2 Industry, Science and Technology Canada; Revenue Canada Customs and Excise.
- 16.3 - 16.3.2, 16.3.4 Communications Branch, Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.
- 16.3.3 Public Relations Branch, Standards Council of Canada.
- 16.4 Supplied by the respective provincial government departments.