

response to some of the challenges facing the rural areas of the province — population out-migration, a slow economic growth rate, and the need for action on a regional basis. Through its Regional Development Branch, the Department of Industry and Commerce has therefore encouraged the formation of regional development corporations in Manitoba with the province contributing to their operating costs. Over the past 10 years, seven corporations have been established covering all of Manitoba outside the city of Winnipeg.

Manitoba offers a number of programs to assist companies engaged in production/processing, distribution or specialized construction. The Feasibility Studies Incentive Program assists companies in commissioning studies to develop plans for establishing or expanding manufacturing facilities in Manitoba, and in applying for grant assistance from the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion. The Research and Development Assistance Program enables eligible Manitoba companies to develop innovative products, processes or methods for utilization of the natural resources of the province and allows educational institutions to undertake research and development of significant and direct economic benefit. The Productivity Improvement Program provides productivity audit analyses of individual firms and industry groups by specialists who identify problem areas, obstacles to growth and opportunities for improvement in the marketing, production, technology, manpower, organizational effectiveness and financial areas of the firm, and make recommendations suited to the needs and capabilities of the firm. The Manpower Development Assistance Program assists Manitoba companies in analyzing productivity and designing personnel training programs to meet specific company requirements. The Design Improvement Assistance Program makes funds available to assist companies in improving the design and quality of their products. The Manitoba Export Assistance Program gives financial support to Manitoba manufacturers who wish to sell goods or services in markets outside the province. The program provides assistance by exhibiting products at trade fairs, bringing potential buyers to Manitoba and organizing sales missions, and by promoting the export of professional services.

Saskatchewan. The primary objectives of the Department of Industry and Commerce are to stimulate the growth of the Saskatchewan economy and to broaden and diversify the economic base of the province. The Department's programs are carried out through its branch organization.

The main functions of the Industry Development Branch are to: encourage the establishment of new manufacturing, processing, distribution and warehouse facilities, resource industries and industrial service operations; assist existing firms to expand and diversify their manufacturing, service and distribution facilities; locate and evaluate development opportunities in manufacturing, processing and resource development, and in the service and warehousing sectors; and compile, publish and distribute information on all phases of Saskatchewan's economic development and potential.

The objective of the Business Assistance Branch is to revitalize and support existing business enterprises in the province by providing counselling and consulting expertise in the fields of accounting, merchandising, transportation and marketing. To make these services accessible to business firms throughout the province, branch representatives are located at six centres outside Regina.

The Trade Development Branch is primarily involved in the promotion of trade in Saskatchewan products in regional, national and international markets, particularly in the US, Europe and the Pacific Rim. The prime contact points for this program are the office of the Agent-General in London, England, and a soon-to-be-established trade office in the Pacific Rim area.

The Tourist Development Branch undertakes activities to assist the Saskatchewan tourist industry to further its development. These activities include: carrying out a marketing program to motivate travel to and within Saskatchewan; providing advice and information to persons wishing to travel in the province; and assisting, through counselling, advice and grants, in the development of tourist attractions.

The new Research and Development Branch collects and disseminates statistical data, and prepares or contracts for, economic feasibility studies to determine what imports and new products might be produced in Saskatchewan, and what primary products can be further refined or processed in the province.

Operation Recycle is a special project initiated to administer the collection of abandoned