

Note Re Interpretation of Government Organization Chart

A pre-war chart of the machinery of Canadian Government would show the normal division of duties between various departments. War-time developments have, however, cut across departmental lines in many cases. The extension of government activity has led to the establishment of new control officials, new agencies and new departments. Agencies under departments may be working in the same field of war-time activity.

In order to give a realistic and comprehensible picture, the present chart therefore, uses as its starting point the major fields which are of war-time importance, and shows the agencies which are active in each field. The plan followed has, however, one drawback: in naming war-time agencies, departmental responsibility has been shown, but it has not been possible to portray the full role of each department. The student of the chart should remember that the work of the agencies is often carried on through departmental channels and that in each field of activity the departments concerned, as mentioned at the foot of the chart, are active.

The chart makes a distinction between intradepartmental committees, which consist of personnel from one department, and interdepartmental committees, which consist of personnel from several departments but which usually function through one department. Some of these may have their own special staff for administrative work; others may employ departmental machinery.