

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to give managers in the Department background information on evaluation and auditing and on the roles of the Comptroller General and the Auditor General in preparation for surveys and assessments of this Department which they are undertaking at the present time.

For well over a decade now, the Government has been devoting unprecedented attention to improvements in its organization and operations. During the last few years, it has been devoting particular attention to the quality of management in the public service, with a special emphasis on financial matters. In 1974, a special committee was established to examine the Office of the Auditor General, and its report was instrumental in the enactment of the Auditor General Act of 1977. Just as this new legislation was being enacted, the Government appointed a Royal Commission on Financial Management and Accountability whose recent report is expected to have as far-reaching an impact on management in government as the Glassco Commission of 1962.

The Royal Commission had barely begun its work when the Government announced its intention to establish a new Office of Comptroller General, an office whose creation had been advocated by the present Auditor General.