

## INTRODUCTION

In May 1973, the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, in the course of examining the 1973/74 Estimates, decided to examine in detail the appropriation of one department, and chose Information Canada for this purpose.

The original intention of the Committee was to complete this study in time to table a Report to the Senate in June 1973, along with the results of their examination of the Estimates as a whole. It became evident that in order to do full justice to the examination of Information Canada and table a fair and impartial Report, more time and investigation would be required and so it was decided to complete the examination of this department after the summer recess in October 1973.

Ensuring that the people of Canada receive information on the organization and actions of their federal government is a most important function and in this Report we attempt to show ways and means that will accomplish this task in a more effective and efficient manner.

We wish to express our appreciation to the witnesses who appeared before us, all of whom were forthright in answering our questions. In particular we are grateful for the co-operation and forbearance of Mr. Guy D'Avignon, the Director General, Information Canada, and his staff.

We would also like to thank Mr. J. H. M. Cocks our Director of Research and Administration; Dr. George Kerr, from the Parliamentary Library; Mr. Gerard Lemire, the Clerk of the Committee; and Mrs. Dorothy Durrett, Miss Hilda Baker and Mrs. Irene Hudson.