

J  
103  
H7  
1980/83  
F4  
A12

The Special Committee on the Parliamentary Task Force on Federal-Provincial  
Fiscal Arrangements



in the House of Commons

The Order of Reference of February 5, 1981,  
establishing the Task Force reads as follows:

That the committee examine the program  
envisaged by the Federal-Provincial Fiscal  
Arrangements and Established Programs Financing  
Act, 1979, including in particular, in fiscal  
arrangements, the transfer of federal  
programs to the provinces and territories,  
and the transfer of federal  
programs to the provinces and territories,  
and the transfer of federal  
programs to the provinces and territories,

## FISCAL FEDERALISM IN CANADA

The Task Force held public hearings in Ottawa  
and in each of the provincial and territorial capitals.  
An attempt was made to hear representatives  
of all party organizations and both towns as possible  
within the short time available. Those who were  
not able to meet members of the Task Force  
personally were encouraged to submit written  
briefs; their testimony has been carefully con-  
sidered along with that received at public and  
private meetings. Witnesses who appeared, as well  
as those from whom written briefs were received,  
are listed in appendices to this report.

In Ottawa, the Minister of Finance, the Minis-  
ter of National Health and Welfare and the Secre-  
tary of State appeared before the Task Force.

The governments of the ten provinces and of  
Yukon and the Northwest Territories accepted the  
Task Force's invitation to meet either publicly or  
privately. Wherever their statements to the Task  
Force were subsequently made public, they were  
printed as appendices to the Minutes of Proceed-  
ings, and evidence of the hearings held in their  
regions.

Members of the Task Force wish to express  
their appreciation to all the witnesses who  
appeared to present their views on the most  
important aspects of the program it was  
asked to examine, or simply to express their  
views on the program it was asked to examine.

cerned citizens of this country. The important  
influence these public consultations have had on  
Task Force views is noted in Chapter I and,  
indeed, will be evident throughout the report.

The Task Force's reporting deadline of June 28,  
1981, was not strictly observed. It became evi-  
dent after the Ottawa public hearings that the  
report could not be completed by the original date.

The Task Force requested that the staff of the  
Economic Council of Canada undertake certain  
analytical studies to aid the Task Force in its  
work. The chairman of the Council, Dr. David  
Blaker, a director, Dr. Peter Cornick, and two  
young staff members, Dr. David Sewall, appeared  
in public session to report the results of some of  
this work and to offer their personal views based  
on their studies undertaken for the Economic  
Council. The Task Force wishes to express its  
appreciation to the chairman and staff of the  
Economic Council of Canada for this effective  
contribution to the work of a parliamentary  
committee.

The Task Force was empowered by its Order of  
Reference to retain the services of professional  
staff and contracted with the Parliamentary  
Centre for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to  
engage advisers with experience in this complex  
field. The director of the Centre, Peter Dobell, was  
able to recruit a group of able, knowledgeable and  
hard-working advisers, and the Task Force wishes  
to acknowledge their invaluable assistance, and  
extraordinary dedication. Dr. Rodney Dobell of  
the University of Victoria headed the group, assist-  
ed by Michael Mendicino, formerly of the Ontario  
Economic Council, and Ronald LeBlanc of the  
Université de Moncton, along with Bill Haney and  
Richard Bayum, who were recruited from the  
Parliamentary Centre.

Report of the Parliamentary Task Force on  
Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements  
August 1981

576865