

lation did not exist before 1970. A few co-operatives that operate in more than one province were set up under the act for private business corporations, or under special acts, during the years before the federal co-operative legislation was passed; some of these have since been reincorporated under the Canada Co-operative Associations Act. There are ordinances governing organization of co-operatives in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The degree of supervision and guidance offered to co-operatives varies from province to province. In some provinces, the only government service to most types of co-operative is that of ensuring that they are properly incorporated and that the correct legal procedures are followed in amalgamations and dissolutions. In other provinces, the registrar of co-operative associations has a small staff, which assists co-operatives during organization and provides advisory services. The Saskatchewan and Manitoba governments have special departments to deal with co-operative matters. Provision of inspection and advisory services is one of the main functions of these departments.

There is more supervision of credit unions and *caisses populaires* than of other co-operatives. In most provinces, each society is inspected about once a year. The inspector checks to see that the credit union is complying with the acts and bylaws.

He also looks for unsound management practices and other flaws that may impair the financial soundness of the association. Canadian co-operatives are generally subject to the same taxes as other business firms. Under the Income Tax Act, however, patronage dividends paid by business firms (including co-operatives and credit unions) may, subject to certain restrictions, be deducted in computing income for income-tax purposes.

Education, promotion and communications

A number of non-commercial organizations supported by dues from their member co-operatives are engaged in co-operative promotion, education, communication and government liaison. The Co-operative Union of Canada, which will celebrate its seventieth anniversary in 1979, is the most comprehensive, representing nearly every type of co-operative activity in Canada. The Canadian Co-operative Credit Society deals specifically with credit-union matters and the Co-operative Housing Foundation plays a similar role in the housing field. All three bodies work in close co-operation. The Co-operative Trust Company and the Co-operators Group Ltd have come to the fore on financial issues. There are two groups representing French-language co-operatives. Le Conseil Canadien de la Coopération is a national associa-