The Department of National Defence was created by the National Defence Act, 1922.

The control and management of the Canadian Forces, and all matters relating to national-defence establishments and works for the defence of Canada, fall under the authority of the Minister of National Defence. who is responsible for presenting before the Cabinet those matters of major defence policy for which Cabinet direction is required. Until October 1973, this Minister was responsible for the Canada Emergency Measures Organization, which in 1974 was renamed National Emergency Planning Establishment, and is now known as Emergency Planning Canada. The new organization remains for administrative purposes within the department but reports to the Privy Council Office. The Minister continues to be responsible for certain civil-emergency powers, duties and functions.

The Deputy Minister is the senior public servant in the department and the principal civilian adviser to the Minister on all departmental affairs. He is responsible for ensuring that all policy direction emanating from the Government is reflected in the administration of the department.

The Chief of the Defence Staff, the senior military adviser to the Minister, is charged with the control and administration of the Canadian Forces. He is responsible for the effective conduct of military operations and the readiness of the Canadian Forces to meet the commitments assigned to the department by the Government.

Within National Defence Headquarters, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, four Assistant Deputy Ministers, as well as the Judge Advocate General, the Director General Information and the Director General Departmental Administrative Services, all report to the Deputy Minister and the Chief of the Defence Staff. The Vice Chief of the Defence Staff is the principal assistant and adviser to the Deputy Minister and the Chief of the Defence Staff, and acts for the latter during his absence. The Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff is responsible to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff for the effective and efficient performance of the operations of the Canadian Forces.

The Canadian Armed Forces
The Canadian Forces are organized
on a functional basis to reflect the
major commitments assigned by the
Government. All forces devoted to a
primary mission are grouped under
a single commander, who is as-