
ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PRIVACY

The office of the Coordinator for Access to Information and Privacy was transferred to the Legal Branch in 1990 as part of the corporate restructuring of the Department. Incremental growth of formal requests continued with 266 access and 71 privacy requests for a total of 337 requests, 19 more than in the previous year. There were 206 consultations from other government departments and 541 requests for personal information from investigative agencies. The media continue to make the most demands on this service, but the general public is also making greater use of the legislation. A substantial number of access/privacy requests for the files of unsuccessful visa applicants are submitted by Canadian third parties.

There were only 14 complaint investigations from the respective commissioners' offices: four are still

under investigation; six were settled in the Department's favour; and the remaining four were "well-founded" complaints for late responses. Three appeals to the Federal Court were completed: one was withdrawn; a second found in favour of the Department's exemption quota information; and a third found that the release of information in 1986 had been delayed contrary to the provisions of the Access to Information and Privacy Acts.

The Coordinator's Office completed the screening of Departmental records up to 1963, for transfer to the National Archives, thus making more international relations records available to scholars and other researchers.

The Privacy Commissioner undertook an audit of the personal information holdings of the Department.