

Notable Changes in the Law Practice

The work of our Unit increased in the areas of human rights law, environmental law, Charter issues particularly as they relate to personnel policies and litigation support. Much of the increase in litigation support relates to our increased involvement in the prosecution of offenses under the Export and Import Permits Act.

d) Provision of Legal Services

For the most part, legal services for which our Unit is responsible are provided to the EAITC by lawyers in the Unit itself. Litigators at the headquarters and regional offices of Justice represent EAITC in various types of litigation; the majority of the litigious matters involve immigration, collections and cases under the Export and Import Permits Act. Agents of the Minister of Justice are used occasionally for litigation in Canada relating to EAITC but more often for litigation abroad. Contracts for legal services with lawyers outside Canada are also used to obtain advice on foreign law as it relates to EAITC's activities outside Canada.

A review of the consultations between Justice Headquarters and the Legal Bureau of EAITC on international law issues is outside the scope of this Report.

3.3 Major Sources of Legal Work

Requests for legal advice are received in our Unit from officers at virtually all levels of EAITC and responses are provided directly to those officers, with the Legal Advisor (JFB) being kept informed by means of our Unit's diary of outgoing correspondence and by means of meetings held as the need arises. Requests for assistance under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction are received from provincial central authorities, the central authorities of the 19 ratifying countries and directly from the public.

All branches and offices of EAITC are potential sources of legal work for our Unit. We do not yet have systems in place which would enable us to provide accurate statistics regarding the percentage of our work which is generated by each branch of EAITC. Many of the legal issues addressed by our Unit, involve two or more branches of EAITC.