

Government Orders

Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act with the support of the Department of Agriculture.

Along similar lines, the positive features of Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation will be retained after the corporation is folded into the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. In particular, financial assistance will continue to be available for new and existing businesses that are likely to make a substantial contribution to industrial development and employment opportunities in Cape Breton Island outside of the coal producing and steel industries. ACOA's new statutory powers will be restricted to Cape Breton Island and a portion of mainland Nova Scotia around the town of Mulgrave.

Dissolving the ECBC and carrying over its specific statutory powers to ACOA will eliminate a duplication in program delivery and the administrative overlap which that duplication entails. For example, the post-merger staff complement of ACOA's Cape Breton office is projected to be reduced by 23 person-years from 72 to 40. ACOA clients in Cape Breton will be the beneficiaries of increased efficiency in promotion, financial assistance and development of industry on the island.

Passage of Bill C-93 will result in the creation of a new, single cultural agency by combining the Canada Council and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. I want to emphasize that despite fiscal pressures, our government has continued to provide significant levels of funding for the arts and the humanities. We believe that Canadian culture has a vital role in fostering a vigorous and unified nation.

The new agency will deal with a full range of cultural matters, including international cultural programs and international academic relations currently under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs. Under the provisions of the act, the new council will be required to take Canada's foreign policy into account in fulfilling its mandate.

The merger will result in increased efficiency in the delivery of programs and services such as grants to artists, promotion of the arts and the provision of scholarships in the social sciences and humanities. As a result, we will enhance our capacity to project our

national personality and the expression of our culture abroad.

To realize savings in administrative overhead, the government proposes to fold the Canadian Commercial Corporation into the Department of Supply and Services. However, given the nature of the CCC's function, its dissolution will be phased in. Nevertheless, administrative savings of \$1 million have already been identified from the corporation's 1992-93 appropriation of \$14.9 million.

The CCC facilitates exports by Canadian suppliers, particularly defence products to foreign governments. Last year, the total value of orders obtained by the corporation on behalf of some 500 Canadian suppliers totalled \$678 million. Moreover, the CCC's business involves more than 2,000 ongoing contracts in at least 50 countries. Therefore, we propose a gradual dissolution of the CCC until the Minister of Supply and Services is satisfied that there will be no detrimental effects on our exports and our trade relations with other countries. In the interim, the CCC will remain a corporate entity.

The government also proposes that Emergency Preparedness Canada be folded back into the Department of National Defence. This is an appropriate action given that Emergency Preparedness Canada was housed within the Department of National Defence prior to 1988 and still reports to the Minister of National Defence.

The budget papers did note that EPC's functions in relation to planning and co-ordinating civil emergency preparedness remain essential. However, its separate organizational status is not necessary for the effective fulfilment of that mandate. Moreover, folding EPC back into the Department of National Defence will allow for its functions to be continued at a lower cost in administrative overhead.

Bill C-93 additionally provides for the amalgamation of the RCMP External Review Committee and the RCMP Public Complaints Commission into a single body entitled the Independent Review Commission for the RCMP.

As was the case with the agencies being replaced, the new body will be independent from the RCMP. It will deal with public complaints concerning the conduct of RCMP officers and review appeals and grievances for members of the RCMP.