

3.1 Resources

a) Human Resources

This Departmental Legal Services Unit is currently comprised of 8 LA positions, 6 of which are Department of Justice PYs and 2 of which are PYs which have been provided to Justice for use in respect of EAITC, pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). All 8 lawyers are employed by Justice.

Our Unit and EAITC are in the process of finalizing a second MOU which would provide Justice with 2 additional PYs for a short term so that replacements can be hired for 2 lawyers who will be assigned to work on the revision of the Export and Import Permits Act, a matter of high priority to the Special Trade Relations Bureau.

The human resource situation in respect of support staff is not satisfactory but is improving. There is an insufficient number of properly trained and classified support personnel. At the end of 1990 there were serious deficiencies in our Unit with respect to records management, correspondence tracking and the maintenance of resource materials. At the end of 1991, the situation is somewhat better and should improve dramatically by mid 1992. In 1991 there were 3 staffing actions completed in respect of our support positions, including the hiring of an SI. Two staffing actions are underway and it is hoped that 2 non SCY personnel will join the unit in early 1992. Augmentation of support services for our satellite office in Place Vanier continues to be of concern.

b) Budget

The problems experienced in 1990 because of budgetary reductions, were less of a problem in 1991, mainly because some but not all of the computer hardware for our Unit was provided by MSS rather than being obtained using the limited funds of our Unit. The second major improvement results from the fact that the 2 PYs added to our Unit in 1991 are accompanied by an increase in our Unit's budget.

It is desirable that funds for professional services be provided for the Export and Import Permits Act revision project so that the Unit may engage the services of researchers and others for the short term. As mentioned in our last Annual Report, lack of resources has contributed to the slow progress of this project.

As a result of a mid term infusion of funds, budgetary amounts provided by EAITC for the day-to-day operations of our Unit were generally adequate.