

Thank you Mr. Chairman for your kind introduction. I am pleased to have this opportunity to address the Financial Management Institute. This is the third opportunity since I assumed my new position last April that I have had to talk in any formal way, with fellow public servants about the work of my office. You will note that I said "fellow public servants". This is the result of the very kind and warm reception that has been extended to me by the many people in the Public Service I have met so far.

I would like to take the next few minutes to explain the functions of the Comptroller General's Office, its objectives and some of our plans for the immediate future. After that, I will be glad to answer your questions about our activities.

When the Prime Minister announced my appointment, he said that I would be,

"...responsible for the assessment and upgrading of financial management programs and financial personnel throughout the Public Service in order to improve both financial control and over-all management."

During the discussion of the legislation that established the office, the Honourable Robert Andras, President of the Treasury Board and my boss, summarized my role as follows: the Comptroller-General is,

"...responsible to the Treasury Board for the quality and integrity of Financial Administration Systems and related practices and procedures in use throughout the Public Service."

The Office of the Comptroller General was formed by the transfer of two branches from the Treasury Board Secretariat. These are the Financial Administration Branch, under Stuart Mensforth, and the Efficiency Evaluation Branch, headed by Timothy Reid. I'd like to describe the principal functions of these two branches to you.

To carry out its responsibilities under the Financial Administration Act as assigned by the Treasury Board, the Financial Administration Branch is organized in three components. First, there is a Financial Policy Division. The work of this Division is visible to you in the Treasury Board's Guide on Financial Administration. Briefly, the