

the years, the Treasury Board had been progressively delegated the tasks of central management. But, in the Commissions's view, the Board was handicapped by the fact that the Ministers on the Board, and particularly the Chairman, the Minister of Finance, were charged with other very heavy ministerial responsibilities. The Commission concluded that the Board should be strengthened by the appointment of a presiding Minister who could give day-to-day guidance to its staff, provide the initiative needed, and ensure that general considerations of good management found expression within Cabinet. The Commission also felt that there should be a redefining of the role and character of the Board's staff that would recognize that the essential task of the staff was to assist ministers in discharging their collective responsibility for program priorities and administrative standards.

These conclusions and recommendations led to the Government Organization Act of 1966, whereby the historic connections between the Minister and Department of Finance and the Treasury Board were changed in a number of important respects. The Board was established as a separate department of government under its own Minister, the President of the Treasury Board, with the Minister of Finance as a member of the Board. The President of the Board, in addition to assuming the duties formerly vested in the Minister of Finance as Chairman of the Board, became the Minister responsible for the new department and in this capacity was given, for the first time, power to act on behalf of the Board in the intervals between Board meetings.

Current Powers

The Financial Administration Act was also amended, and it is from this revised Act that the Board now derives its current powers and responsibilities. Section 5 of the Act reads as follows:

"The Treasury Board may act for the Queen's Privy Council for Canada on all matters relating to:

- (a) general administrative policy in the Public Service;
- (b) the organization of the Public Service or any portion thereof, and the determination and control of establishments therein;
- (c) financial management, including estimates, expenditures, financial commitments, accounts, charges for services, rentals, licences, leases, revenues from the disposition of property, and procedures by which departments manage, record and account for revenues received or receivable from any source whatever;
- (d) the review of annual and longer term expenditure plans and programs of the various departments of government, and the determination of priorities with respect thereto;
- (e) personnel management in the Public Service, including the determination of terms and conditions of employment of persons employed therein; and