

## 23. THE DEFENCE BUDGET AND THE WHITE PAPER ON DEFENCE

### Background

The 1987-88 Overall Expenditure Plan of the Federal Government projects total expenditures of \$110.07 billion of which \$10.34 billion or 10.8 per cent will go to the Department of National Defence (DND). \$200 million of this was deferred by the Department of Finance to be restored in 1988-89. In 1986-87 \$9.91 (9.5 per cent) of a total \$116.54 billion went to DND. Of the \$10.34 billion allocated to DND, \$2.74 billion or 26 per cent will be devoted to Capital Expenditures.

Ongoing projects that fall under Capital Expenditures include:

- Tribal Class Update and Modernization project
- construction of new Canadian patrol frigates
- the ongoing CF18 procurement programme
- the Destroyer Life Extension programme
- procurement of a Tactical Towed Array Sonar System
- procurement of six De Havilland Dash 8 aircraft
- acquisition of Challenger aircraft
- construction of the North Warning System

The remainder of the budget is spent on operating expenses, salaries, pensions and benefits.

Despite election promises of an increase of 6 per cent in the defence budget, the Conservative Government announced in November 1984 that the 1985 projection was being reduced. The 1985, 1986 and 1987 budgets are therefore not markedly different from the defence budgets of previous governments.

The Defence White Paper, Challenge and Commitment, was tabled in the House