

Bert Zethof

Government Policy
(cont'd)

For a western provincial government, estimated the likely impact on the province of a proposed 20 percent surcharge on exports to the United States. The study involved an analysis of the impact on 12 major export commodities, including forest products, hydrocarbons and their derivatives, and some categories of manufactured products. Key industry and government representatives were interviewed to determine current market conditions and the likely response of each industry in the event that the proposed surcharge ever became reality. The study provided estimates of the likely change in export revenues for each commodity, with detail back-up on whether the change would be due to a price change, volume change, or a combination of price and volume changes.

For a western provincial government, conducted an in-depth analysis of alternative options for providing Special Enterprise Zones as a means of stimulating new investment in the province. The study involved detailed analysis of the taxation systems and other incentive options available to government, and the assessment of the impacts of providing various combinations of tax relief and incentives on corporate profitability. Through in-depth interviews with a number of companies currently operating outside of the province, we developed a number of representative test cases for analysis, developed detailed computer models, and tested these representative cases under a number of different configurations of incentive packages that could be offered. The analysis focussed on identifying the costs of different packages to government, and the expected benefits to companies of locating in these zones.

For a municipality in Northern B.C., provided support in their fiscal planning and budgeting process. The work involved reviewing the budget in detail, and comparing it with the budgets of similar municipalities throughout the Province. After experiencing several years of rapid growth, the community's level of economic activity had stabilized and the planning support aided the municipality in arriving at an optimal allocation of limited resources in this new environment.

For the Government of Canada, engaged in a study for developing energy conservation programs aimed at residential consumers of energy. The study estimated the price elasticity of demand for various fuels in Canada and evaluated energy conservation programs in Oregon. The program evaluations determined the relative effectiveness of using incentives (e.g. grants)