



REFERENCE PAPERS

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 98 ADMINISTRATION OF CROWN FORESTS IN CANADA

Ninety-five per cent of the forests of Canada are owned by the people and are administered by either the Federal or Provincial Governments. In the Maritime Provinces, however, most of the forest has been retained under private ownership. In Prince Edward Island practically all the forest is in private holdings, chiefly farmers' woodlots. In Nova Scotia 73 p.c. of the forest land is privately owned, made up generally of areas exceeding 1,000 acres in extent. Forty-eight per cent of the forests of New Brunswick are owned by individuals and corporations. The remaining provinces have the following proportions of forest under private ownership: Newfoundland, 2 p.c.; Quebec, 6 p.c.; Ontario, 8 p.c.; Manitoba, 4 p.c.; Saskatchewan, 5 p.c.; Alberta, 3 p.c.; and British Columbia, 3 p.c.

The major proportion of the Crown forests are owned and administered by the provincial governments. The Federal Government administers the forest lands of the Yukon and Northwest Territories and all other federal lands such as the National Parks and forest experiment stations. Most of the provinces have established forest reserves, and seven provinces also maintain Provincial Parks. Forest reserves are set aside either as a source of supply of forest products for industry, or as protection to prevent soil erosion. In both instances, controlled logging operations are carried on and particular care is taken to prevent harmful depletion of the forest resources at any time. In the case of protection forests, the decision as to whether any particular area can be logged in a given year depends on its effect on erosion. No logging would be allowed on a hillside, for example, no matter how desirable from a commercial point of view, if it is likely to interfere with the control of streamflow.

Federal Administration

In 1949 the Canada Forestry Act was passed enabling the Governor-in-Council and the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources to carry out the following:

To establish and maintain national forests and forest experimental areas;

To establish and maintain forest products laboratories;

To assist any province or forest owner in the protection and development of forest lands with a view to conservation and advantageous utilization of the forest resources;

To enter into agreements with provinces for the protection, development and utilization of forest resources;