

Routine Proceedings

(b) These conferences are held twice a year.

Question No. 163—Mr. Stupich:

With respect to the CEIC in the B.C./Yukon territory region, has an internal communications survey been contracted out to Tower, Perrin and Co., and, if so, (a) what was the cost of this contract (b) how long have these surveys been contracted out (c) is there a cost comparison available for surveys done internally as opposed to externally?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Yes. Employment and Immigration Canada contracted with Tower, Perrin and Co. some portions of an internal communication survey.

(a) The contract cost \$35,000.

(b) In all, there were two surveys conducted. The first survey was conducted in 1988, the second in 1990.

(c) Most, if not all of our surveys are contracted out. In addition, due to the varying scope and parameters of different surveys, cost comparisons cannot be made.

Question No. 165—Mr. Gardiner:

How many American citizens have entered Canada to work as professionals under terms of the Canada—U.S. Free Trade Agreement?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): The following is a breakdown of the number of United States citizens who entered Canada under the Professionals category of Chapter 15 of the Canada—United States Free Trade Agreement since the Agreement was implemented on January 1, 1989.

January 1 to December 31, 1989—1807

January 1 to December 31, 1990—3284

January 1 to November 30, 1991—2961

Question No. 168—Mr. Proud:

With respect to the Canadian Pension Commission (a) what is the current backlog (b) how does this backlog compare with the backlog three years ago (c) what is the current turn-around time for (i) first decisions (ii) Entitlement Board hearings and decisions (iii) appeals before the Veterans Appeal Board?

Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of Veterans Affairs): (a) For the 1991-92 fiscal year, 6,000 first level decisions were forecast to be completed by September 30—6,671 were actually completed.

(b) Three years ago, in the 1988/89 fiscal year, for the same period to September 30, 5,500 first level decisions were forecast—5,364 were completed.

(c) Turn-around time for:

(i) First decisions—30 days

(ii) Entitlement Board hearings and decisions—14 days

(iii) The average turn-around time from the date of the hearing to the promulgation of a decision for appeals before the Veterans Appeal Board was 66 days for the period from April 1, 1991 to November 30, 1991.

The average administrative time for the collection of documents from the department, case preparation, distribution of documents and scheduling, from the date of receipt of a notice of appeal to the date of hearing, was 206 days over the same period. This delay is shared between the board, the department and the Bureau of Pensions Advocates.

Question No. 169—Mr. Proud:

With respect to the Canadian Pension Commission, (a) how many commissioners are based in Charlottetown (b) are any commissioners based in other parts of the country, and if so (i) how many (ii) has there been a reduction in travel by the commissioners because of the relocations?

Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of Veterans Affairs): (a) The Canadian Pension Commission has 16 commissioners based in Charlottetown.

(b) Yes (i) 8 (ii) Yes there has been a reduction in travel by the commissioners.

Question No. 171—Mr. MacAulay:

1. With respect to the rock crab fishery in Prince Edward Island, for each of the last 3 years, (a) how many people have received fishing permits (b) what was the total yearly catch (c) what was the value of the total catch?

2. Does the government have any plans for (a) making the rock crab fishery a permanent fishery (b) licensing fishermen in the rock crab fishery?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): 1(a) 50 permits were issued in each of 1988, 1989 and 1990. However, log books submitted to DFO indicate landings for only 32, 21 and 6 permit holders in 1988, 1989 and 1990 respectively.

(b) 1988—930,030 lbs

1989—642,136 lbs

1990—282,912 lbs

(c) 1988—\$186,006.00

1989—\$128,427.20

1990—\$56,582.40

2. Consultations with the industry will begin early 1992. The following considerations will have to be