

The next step will be for the departments and the OCG to prepare plans which will outline how agreed-upon changes are to be accomplished and in what time frame. Finally, on the basis of these agreed-upon departmental plans, officers in OCG will draw up a government-wide action and priority plan. This plan will be implemented only after the Treasury Board Ministers have reviewed and accepted it.

Now, that's the over-all plan; but to test our approach, three volunteer departments - Energy, Mines and Resources, Health and Welfare, and the Post Office - are going to help us test the scope and procedures of the survey, as well as the accuracy of our analysis, before we complete extensive reviews in the other 17 departments.

In our assessment of the results of the survey, we will use a four-point rating system to provide a means of establishing the priority of a particular item. But, the priority will also depend on a number of other factors such as the relative weight given by my office and the department to a particular item or the sequence of tackling problem areas that seems most appropriate.

The survey is not intended to provide a "report card" on departments. It is, rather, the basis for departmental action plans. The only written report from IMPAC will be the agreed-upon action plans with each department.

It's important to remember that the procedures to be followed in the IMPAC survey, and the evaluation methodology to be used, have been designed to ensure consistency between departments, to maintain quality control, and to ensure that we can provide a clear, concise and objective explanation of the results.

I want to stress that this survey is not an audit. The only documented, final result to be reported is the action plan and the timetable to accomplish improvements that have been agreed with the departments. The IMPAC survey is not intended to provide a perfect picture of management practices and controls across government. Its scope, duration, and coverage are designed to give an accurate picture of the situation in those departments responsible for most government spending and staff-years. The survey is the start of a continuing, positive and beneficial consultative process.