

3. (a) When a requisition originates in a region, the policy is to solicit bids in the region if there are enough suppliers in that region to insure competition. (b) With respect to Headquarters purchasing the policy is that when the final point of use for the product is in the Atlantic or Western provinces, purchases are made from suppliers in these regions provided that total PROC cost (Product, Resource, Operating and Contingent Cost) to the government cannot be reduced by using alternative Canadian sources. All national requirements including those for the National Capital Region are solicited from suppliers throughout Canada. (c) The Government's program for contracting out research and development work provides that contracts should be let so that the resulting industries will be established throughout the various regions of Canada.

4. The following practices of the Supply Administration are intended to assist firms in identifying and obtaining contracts or sub-contracts: The publication of a Weekly News Release of Business Opportunities of Unclassified Contracts over \$10,000 and the public opening of tenders for requirements over \$10,000 provide information to any interested parties on current contracts, some of which contain sub-contracting opportunities. Smaller firms whose government contracting potential is likely to be limited to the sub-contract level are referred to the purchasing branches of the Department to obtain information on current acquisitions. The Department is increasing its effort to inform potential prime contractors on the general requirements of government contracting procedures including their application to the sub-contract level. Referrals are made to customer departments of those firms who may handle specialized requirements. Liaison is maintained with DREE and ITC local representatives to keep them informed of anticipated acquisition programs. From time to time, conferences are conducted to inform prime and sub-contractors of our requirements (e.g. Operation Access, Electronics and Data Processing Conferences). The recent country-wide advertising campaign in newspapers and periodicals was another instrument to inform industry about the role of DSS, our policies and practices and how businessmen can become potential sources of supply for government requirements. Over 20,000 copies of our explanatory brochure "How to Do Business with the Department of Supply and Services" have been distributed. As a result, we have received many requests for copies of our Weekly Bulletin of Unclassified Contracts for more than \$10,000 which we offered in the booklet as a useful tool in identifying sub-contract possibilities. The Supply Administration maintains a liaison with suppliers both at the prime and sub-contract levels by answering verbally or in writing, approximately 1,600 enquiries per month. These involve explanations of DSS purchasing policies, practices and procedures and outlining services which are available from DSS. Discussions are held with representatives of firms to ensure adequate listing of their capabilities so that they can do business with DSS to their fullest potential. Our Printing Products Branch has initiated a system whereby urgent requirements are posted on bulletin boards in all our Regional Offices. This permits more equitable opportunity for suppliers across Canada to compete for government printing business. The increased usage of Standing Offers permits

suppliers of such items as automobiles, typewriters and pharmaceuticals to disseminate contracts to their outlets at the local level, thus enabling the small businessman to have greater participation in government procurement.

5. \$100,000.
6. \$50,000.
7. This is now under consideration.

CFB FOYMOUNT

Question No. 2,028—Mr. Reynolds:

1. What conditions were posed as part of the tender procedure for bids received concerning the disposal of CFB Foymount by CADC?
2. What general conditions apply for disposal of Crown-owned assets, particularly property, within invitations to tender?
3. Was the sale of CFB Foymount pursuant to such general conditions posed by CADC?
4. Were there any changes in the rules to bid after tenders were first requested?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): In so far as Crown Assets Disposal Corporation is concerned: 1 and 2. The Conditions of Sale are contained in the copy of the Offer for Sale of CFB Foymount tabled in answer to Question No. 2,025.

3. Yes.
4. No.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS—PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS OFFICE

Question No. 2,043—Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):

In the last fiscal year, what was the cost of operation of the Parliamentary Returns Office of the Department of Communications?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): There is no Parliamentary Returns Office as such in the Department of Communications. Parliamentary returns are handled on a part time basis by the Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Deputy Minister, assisted by a secretary of that office.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS—PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS OFFICE

Question No. 2,067—Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):

In the last fiscal year, what was the cost of operation of the Parliamentary Returns Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): There is no Parliamentary Returns Office as such in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Parliamentary returns form part of the duties of the General Services Division.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SPECIFICATIONS BOARD

Question No. 2,148—Mr. Reynolds:

1. (a) Is the Canadian Government Specifications Board efficient to the extent that they have a minimal backlog of requests for specifications (b) what central body is charged with the responsibility for