

## POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—COMTEAMS

Question No. 367—**Mr. Dinsdale:**

1. Do COMTEAMS currently form part of the Post Office Department and, if so (a) what is the description of the term (b) on what date and for what reason were they established (c) what are their functions?

2. (a) What component or components of the Department in Ottawa is/are responsible for matters relating to COMTEAMS (b) what is the composition of a COMTEAM (c) how many are in existence across Canada (d) at which postal headquarters/facilities have they been established?

3. (a) Which categories of postal employees normally form part of a COMTEAM (b) to which unions do they belong (c) how frequently are they rotated?

4. (a) Do COMTEAMS hold regular or periodic meetings with local union officials (b) does the (i) Canadian Union of Postal Workers (ii) Letter Carriers Union of Canada generally accept the concept of COMTEAMS (c) do senior officials of the Department in Ottawa and senior officials of Regional/District Headquarters generally consider COMTEAMS an essential element of the postal organization?

5. Are official directives disseminated to COMTEAMS by the Public Affairs Branch of the Department in Ottawa and, if so what is the nature of the information?

6. What is the nature of information disseminated by COMTEAMS at subordinate levels of the postal organization?

7. Will COMTEAMS cease to be a part of the postal organization and, if so, on what date?

8. Has provision been made in the Main Estimates for COMTEAMS and, if so, since what date?

9. What has been the cost to the public for COMTEAMS since their inception?

10. As of what date were the answers to the above question prepared?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General):** 1. COMTEAMS as outlined do not exist. (a) COMTEAM is a contraction of "Communications Team" and is the term applied to an internal information process. (b) They were established in October 1976 as one result of the present Postmaster General, the Hon. Jean-Jacques Blais' recognition of the need to stimulate two-way communications within the Post Office Department. (c) The COMTEAM process is intended to stimulate two-way communications within the Post Office Department.

2. (a) The Promotion of the COMTEAM principle is the responsibility of the public affairs and personnel components; it also involves every functional group. (b) Not applicable. (c) Not applicable. (d) Not applicable.

3. (a) See 2 (a) above. (b) Members of all unions representing Post Office Department employees would be involved in the process in one way or another. (c) Not applicable.

4. (a) No. (b)(i) No. (ii) Yes. (c) As explained, COMTEAM is not an element of the postal organization; however, the Postmaster General and senior postal officials are pleased with the way the COMTEAM process has assisted in keeping employees at all levels informed. Strong and effective communications among members of an organization are essential if people are to be fully informed and to act soundly on facts and data about the business. COMTEAM is a process for opening up the channels of communication within Canada post and is therefore essential to the organization's effectiveness.

## Order Paper Questions

5. No.

6. COMTEAM information covers a wide variety of topics of interest to all employees and is often in response to request for clarification.

7. COMTEAM is more concept than a group, and is considered as ongoing.

8. The main estimates contain general provisions for communications, of which COMTEAM is simply a process.

9. Since COMTEAM is made up of existing personnel and functions through existing communications channels, there have been no additional man-year costs to the department.

10. The government takes responsibility for the answers it provides to questions and for the process involved in replying to such questions. It is not appropriate therefore to provide information about internal administrative arrangements.

## DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT—NEW BRUNSWICK EMPLOYEES

Question No. 553—**Mr. Howie:**

How many persons were employed in New Brunswick by the Department of Fisheries and the Environment to protect the fisheries resources from illegal activities in (a) 1975 (b) 1976 (c) 1977 to date?

**Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and the Environment):**

Year	No. of Persons
1975	199
1976	188
1977	185

## SUBSIDIES TO FERRIES OR FERRY SYSTEMS

Question No. 557—**Mr. McKinnon:**

1. How much did the government pay in subsidies to ferries or ferry systems on the (a) East Coast (b) West Coast in December 1976?

2. How much does the government plan to pay in subsidies to ferries or ferry systems on the (a) East Coast (b) West Coast in 1977?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** 1 and 2. The government of Canada provided the following assistance to water transportation during 1976 and is presently budgeted for 1977:

Subsidies	1976	1977
(a) East coast	\$13,028,110	\$14,368,678
(b) West coast	2,654,046	8,230,000
Deficit Payments		
In respect of Constitutional Services to P.E.I. and Newfoundland	\$85,863,184	\$101,990,000
Other East Coast Services	2,701,081	3,705,000

The 1976 subsidy figures are not final since existing contracts contain profit limitation clauses and all excess profit recaptures have not been completed.

The above figures were provided by Transport Canada and the Canadian Transport Commission.