

step in improving the control of the expenditure of public funds; the subject of this policy directive was program evaluation.*

Among the more significant provisions of this document, the deputy heads of all departments and agencies were directed to ensure that:

- a) all programs are periodically and objectively evaluated, and that the results of such evaluations are communicated to deputy heads and other appropriate levels of management;
- b) the evaluations provide for a thorough review of "the effectiveness of programs in achieving their objectives, and of the efficiency with which they are administered";
- c) a comprehensive plan of evaluations be established to ensure all departmental programs are evaluated, as a guide, once every three to five years.

With the creation of the Office of the Comptroller General, program evaluation policy for the federal government became one of the responsibilities of this new organization. Late in 1978 this office produced a set of draft guidelines for "Program Evaluation in the Public Service". These guidelines do not constitute a manual for conducting evaluation studies, but rather were intended to clarify the expectations of the Comptroller General in the area of program evaluation. Although considerably more detailed, the guidelines were very much in accord with the previous Treasury Board directive, as indicated by the following quote:

"It is suggested that the deputy's responsibility for program evaluation is to ensure:

- (1) that a plan exists to review all components of the organization at least once every three to five

* During the same year, a new Auditor General Act was proclaimed which significantly broadened the mandate of the Auditor General to include issues related to "value for money", such as efficiency and effectiveness. His office has subsequently expressed particular interest in departmental evaluation programs, and even the quality of individual evaluations.