

The Economy

The third principle involves broadbased evaluation. The mandatory evaluation of a program or agency should take place, we suggest, in the broadest possible context, that is, in context with all other programs or agencies of a similar function. This would ensure that overlapping programs or duplication of services are identified and eliminated. It should be pointed out that the termination clause inherent in any "sunset" legislation is only the mechanism which obliges a review or re-evaluation process to take place. In no way does it imply that agencies or programs listed should be terminated; only that they will be terminated if the statutory review does not take place.

The major ingredients which would make for effective legislation include time-limited budgetary authority, classification of programs and agencies, a program review schedule, definition of review process and responsibilities, evaluation criteria, and a termination process. These elements should be clearly defined within the legislation to ensure that the legislating body understands its responsibilities.

It is not my custom to refer to the specific details of proposals we are putting forward, but on this occasion I believe I should go into somewhat greater detail than usual with respect to the positive steps which we believe could be taken by the government, and which would be taken by us when we form the government, to curtail and bring into line some of the programs and agencies which have been in operation for years and years without review. With this in mind, I turn to a draft bill which I have before me. It will not be necessary for me to read the preamble because my leader has placed its purpose clearly on record. As a short title, the legislation may be cited as the "Canada Sunset Act, 1978." I shall not read the definition clause because it follows the usual pattern. Thereafter, the act would read:

Part II

Termination

New Federal Bodies

3. (1) Subject to Section 5 of this Act, every Federal Body established after this Act comes into force shall terminate eight years after such Federal Body is established.
(2) Notwithstanding subsection one, the Governor in Council may, by regulation subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Commons, designate a termination date to occur before eight years after such Federal Body is established.

Existing Federal Bodies

4. (1) Subject to Section 5, every Federal Body enumerated in Schedule I of this Act shall terminate on October 31, 1980.
(2) Subject to Section 5, every Federal Body enumerated in Schedule II of this Act shall terminate on October 31, 1982.
(3) Subject to Section 5, every Federal Body enumerated in Schedule III of this Act shall terminate on October 31 1984.
(4) Subject to Section 5, every Federal Body enumerated in Schedule IV of this act shall terminate on October 31, 1986.
(5) Where a Federal Body that exists at the time this Act comes into force is not referred to in any of the Schedules of this Act, subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Commons, the Governor in Council may, by regulation, provide for a termination date for such Federal Body.
(6) For the purposes of Subsections (1) and (5), subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Commons, the Governor in Council may, by regulation, change the termination date of a Federal Body.

Continuance of Federal Bodies

(7) Notwithstanding anything in this Section, every Federal Body that exists at the time this Act comes into force is deemed to terminate not later than eight years after this Act comes into force.

5. (1) A Federal Body shall not terminate pursuant to this Act where the House of Commons, after considering a committee's report upon such a Federal Body, resolves that it is in the best interests of the public to continue such Federal Body.

(2) For the purposes of this Section, a motion to continue a Federal Body under review shall be debated for no longer than five hours at the end of which time such motion shall be decided forthwith without debate or amendment. Where a Federal Body terminates, the House of Commons may resolve after considering committee report to re-establish such body.

Re-examination

6. Subject to Section 5, where the House of Commons has resolved to continue a Federal Body, that Body shall terminate eight years after that resolution.

Review Process

Purpose of Committee Report

7. A committee shall assess the public need for the continuation of a Federal Body under review, and shall table its report thereon in the House of Commons before the termination date of that Federal Body has been reached.

Committee's report

8. When a committee reviews a Federal Body it shall:

- (a) Examine the reasons why the Federal Body under review was established and identify that Body's objectives and mandate;
- (b) Assess the degree to which the Federal Body has
 - (i) achieved its objectives and fulfilled its mandate;
 - (ii) established or been subject to policies, such as but not limited to regulations and standards that are consistent with its objectives and mandate; and
 - (iii) promote public participation in its decision-making process;
- (c) assess any alternative methods of achieving the objectives and fulfilling the mandate of the Federal Body that may be more effective or more economical;

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- (d) analyse the impact of
 - (i) terminating the Federal Body;
 - (ii) continuing the Federal Body at its current level of activity;
 - (iii) reducing the Federal Body's level of activity;
 - (iv) increasing the Federal body's level of activity; and
- (e) provide a statement including the number of and classifications of beneficiaries served by the Federal Body.

I am quoting from the draft bill in order to indicate the process of review which is necessary, and to reassure hon. members opposite, as well as the minister, that we have given some thought to this. In fact we are concerned enough to bring the matter before the House this afternoon. Again I should like to quote from the draft bill we hope to introduce very soon. It continues:

9. The Auditor General of Canada shall make such examinations of a Federal Body that would enable him to fulfil his duties as provided for in the Auditor General Act, and shall submit his report to the Speaker of the House of Commons within a reasonable time before the Federal Body's termination date and the Speaker of the House of Commons shall lay each such report