

*Routine Proceedings**Customs & Excise***ACCOMMODATION COSTS****RE: PLANNING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX
(NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION)**

Yes, the government is leasing limited office space in the National Capital Region to be used in planning for the administration of the proposed goods and services tax. (This space also conforms to a long-range plan to consolidate excise offices, currently located in five sites throughout the city.)

a) Public Works Canada has leased for Customs and Excise 11,447 M2 which is currently being prepared for occupancy starting in January 1990. Temporary accommodation has been provided through short-term leases and previously leased space.

b) i) All the space is located in the Place Vanier Office Complex at 25 McArthur Avenue, Vanier, Ontario.

ii) 11,447 M2.

iii) Annual rental cost of the leased space is \$2,209,271 (subject to final confirmation upon occupancy).

c) i) Design and construction contracts awarded by Public Works Canada total approximately \$1,542,381 (including approximately \$192,341 funded by Revenue Canada, Customs and Excise for data cabling installations). PWC estimates that it will incur additional costs of approximately \$1,855,960 (excludes Customs and Excise telecommunications costs, furniture, equipment, etc.).

ii) Estimated costs for furniture and office equipment (including computers) \$2,698,473.

iii) \$45,000 for telecommunications.

ACID RAIN DAMAGE**Question No. 158—Mr. Caccia:**

For each province east of Saskatchewan, what is (a) the economic loss, on an annual basis, attributable to acid rain damage for (i) commercially logged tree species (ii) maple syrup production (iii) agricultural crops (iv) salmon spawning grounds (b) the effect of acid rain damage on growth rates and productivity for (i) commercially logged tree species (ii) maple syrup production (iii) agricultural crops (iv) salmon spawning grounds (c) the effect of acid rain on the annual growth rate of major tree species?

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): I am informed by the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries and Oceans and Forestry as follows:

(a) i) Trees that are currently being harvested have matured in a relatively pollution-free environment and, therefore, are only slightly affected by acid rain. Annual losses are estimated at \$2.5 million (1983 dollars) for Quebec and Ontario and about \$.5 million for the Atlantic provinces, accurate estimates for Manitoba do not exist but it can be predicted that they will be less than \$10,000.00 a year.

ii) iii) Direct effects of acid rain have not been demonstrated. For provinces east of Saskatchewan, there is no specific economic data available for economic loss, on an annual basis, attributable to acid rain damage for maple syrup production and agricultural crops.

iv) Based on the biological assessment, the annual impact of the reduced salmon stocks on the economy of Nova Scotia is \$190 thousand in terms of net foregone expenditures by salmon anglers.

(b) i) Commercial logging is carried out in mature or overmature stands, in which growth potential is very limited. Young stands and those in the development stage are most seriously affected by acid rain, but will not be logged for several years. Therefore, current commercial harvests are affected very little by acid rain. However, it can be anticipated that future harvest will decrease, as a result of acid rain damage.

The most sensitive species, in order of importance, are: Eastern White Pine; Silver Maple; Red Spruce; Black Cottonwood; and Beech.

ii) iii) There is little conclusive data on the effect of acid rain on growth rates and productivity for mapple syrup and agricultural crops.

iv) Nova Scotia: 13 rivers in which native salmon runs are extinct;

18 rivers in which salmon populations are considerably reduced;

13 rivers in which salmon still live but in which reduction in populations has been noted; some of their tributaries no longer support salmon populations;

16 rivers in which salmon populations are not affected by acid rain.

Nova Scotia has a total of 38.7 sq km of accessible (to salmon) habitat. Of that accessible salmon habitat, 20.5 sq km are considered to be vulnerable to acid rain.

Acidification of habitat has caused an estimated 50 per cent decline in Atlantic salmon production in 22 rivers for which good angling statistics are available; the decline in all of Nova Scotia has been 33 per cent.