

provide a team of engineers to study new harbour facilities, including breakwaters and a dock to be constructed, making use of the rubble left by the earthquake. This project will at the same time provide employment for a part of the labour force which has been deprived of its livelihood as a result of this tragedy. The total cost of the study will be \$50,000....

New community in national capital area

About 5,000 acres of land in the southeast corner of Ottawa, in Gloucester Township, will be acquired by the Federal Government and the Province of Ontario for a new community that may ultimately have a population of 100,000. The location was designated as a potential new growth area in the recently-published Ottawa-Carleton regional planning proposals. The plan is the result of studies carried out by the regional municipality with the object of accommodating the expected growth in the national capital area over the next 20 to 30 years. The action by senior governments in acquiring land for public development is intended to support the planning proposals by the local governments concerned.

Mr. Ron Basford the minister responsible for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the National Capital Commission, states: "All levels of government are concerned about shortages of serviced land in urban communities because of what this means, among other things, in terms of increases in the cost of housing. The Federal Government is very much interested in accelerating its participation with other levels of government in sponsoring the acquisition and servicing of land in sufficient quantity to ensure an adequate supply, stabilize prices and contribute to the quality of urban growth."

Mr. Allan Grossman, who is the Ontario government minister responsible, said that the assembly would provide the widest range of housing needs at reasonable prices. "Moreover, public participation in the widest possible sense would be encouraged when the planning stage for this new and important community is reached."

When the options are exercised, joint planning will be undertaken and then the area will be developed over 20 years.

A model community

The ministers said that the impact of urbanization was such that there was a vital need to provide serviced land for new communities as well as for communities in the process of rapid development. There would be no effort spared in making the new Gloucester Township development an exemplary community. The operation would provide opportunities for studying new planning and innovative measures in developing a broadly-based community that would fulfil the needs and aspirations of all age groups and all income levels of the population.

Under a partnership arrangement covered in Section 40 of the National Housing Act and Section 6 of the Ontario Housing Corporation Act, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Ontario Housing Corporation will acquire the land with 75 per cent of the cost to be borne by the Federal Government and 25 per cent by the province.

No estimates of land acquisition or development costs will be made public until the assembly has been completed.

SAMSON to carry new Defence communications system

A \$52-million modern communications system in Department of National Defence message relay centres "will be procured through competitive tender", Defence Minister James Richardson announced recently. SAMSON (strategic automatic message-switching operational network) will replace with computers obsolete facilities that have been in existence since the 1940s.

Mr. Richardson said that "letters of interest" had been sent to 64 Canadian companies last November but, because of the complexity of the equipment involved, it was not known how many Canadian companies would be able to bid on the project. He confirmed that, based on the replies received, a competitive situation did exist.

He also said that "invitations to tender" would be issued this spring. Factors to be considered in the final selection, he emphasized, would include "Canadian content", benefits, performance and cost.

The Minister pointed out that a substantial portion of the SAMSON budget would be spent in Canada for construction, installation, engineering, power, air-conditioning, spare parts and training.

Every effort, he said would be made to achieve maximum Canadian content in the procurement of the electronic equipment, or trade-offs would be sought supporting Canadian industry. The electronics portion of the budget — about 50 per cent — includes automatic relay centres, line equipment, communication security devices and terminal equipment.

Ontario hydro a crown corporation

Subject to approval by the Ontario Legislature, Ontario Hydro will become a Crown corporation. The decision was taken by the provincial government on the recommendation of a task force.

The new corporation will have a president and a board of directors who will report to the Legislature through a minister without portfolio. Hydro chairman George Gathercole will remain as chairman of the board, Ontario Premier William Davis said.

Mr. Gathercole will play a key role in relations with the Ontario government and the general public and will work with the president of Hydro to ensure that the board of directors has full access to technical information and all other data required from the corporation.

The Hydro corporation proposal was one of 32 in the task force's study. Premier Davis said he would not comment on further proposals until they had been discussed by cabinet because he did not wish to prejudice further reports from the task force. Yet to come are studies on the organization, nuclear power program, power costing and rates philosophy, external financing and a "make or buy" policy.

Although Hydro must fulfil its mandate under the broad policy direction