

Cost sharing rehabilitation programs aid disabled

Since the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act (VRDP) was passed a little more than 20 years ago, federal-provincial cost-sharing rehabilitation programs have aided many disabled Canadians to obtain employment.

The contributions payable by the federal government represent 50 per cent of the cost incurred by the provinces and territories to provide vocational rehabilitation services for physically and mentally disabled persons. These include assessment, counselling and vocational training for disabled persons as well as individual costs of such things as artificial limbs, technical devices, and tools, equipment or special clothing needed to accept employment. The costs of transportation and maintenance allowances required by a disabled person while receiving vocational rehabilitation services are also shared. Between December 1961 and March 1981 the federal share of such services was \$222 million.

Federal government's contributions

In 1979-80 for example, the federal government's share was \$36.5 million towards services for more than 111 350 people. As part of that expenditure under the VRDP agreements the federal government contributed towards the salaries of some 520 provincial employees in vocational rehabilitation programs, the staff of approximately 220 vocational rehabilitation workshops, and 20 provincial voluntary agencies, as well as some 1 270 employees who worked in rehabilitation programs for alcoholics and drug addicts, and some 200 employees in mental health programs. More than \$10 million in federal-provincial funds were spent on training, maintenance allowances, prosthetics, or technical aids needed by disabled persons in order to undertake employment.

Among those helped under the VRDP program are persons with physical disabilities of a congenital or genetic origin or as a result of injury or debilitating disease, those recovering from mental illness, the mentally retarded, and those disabled because of alcohol or drug abuse.

All the provinces and territories (except Quebec) receive federal funds under the VRDP agreements. The rehabilitation services in Quebec are cost-shared under the Canada Assistance Plan.

News briefs

Douglas Lindores, vice-president of the multilateral division of the Canadian International Development Agency, has been elected by acclamation to the presidency of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program for 1982. Mr. Lindores has been a member of the Canadian government's delegation to the 48-member council since 1973. The United Nations Development Program is the centrepiece of the United Nations technical co-operation activities in the field of international development.

Algas Engineering Services Limited of Calgary has been awarded a \$650 000 contract to provide technical advisory services to the Petroleum Authority of Thailand. Arranged through Canadian Commercial Corporation, Algas will supply technical assistance over a six-month period for start-up operations and onshore maintenance of a natural gas pipeline stretching from the Gulf of Thailand to a point south of Bangkok. Algas Engineering Services, a subsidiary of Nova Corporation, provides project management, engineering, construction supervision, training and consulting services for natural gas gathering and transmission.

The federal and Manitoba governments have signed an historic agreement with the Four Nations Confederacy through which major responsibilities for the development and delivery of on-reserve child welfare services will be delegated to Indian authorities within several tribal or regional councils. This agreement will provide a full range of child welfare services to all Indian communities opting for the agreement. It will place a special emphasis on supportive and preventive activities such as family counselling and family and community education programs, and on increased Indian community participation and responsibility.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a \$716 250 (U.S.) allocation under a line of credit with Corporacion Financiera de Desarrollo (COFIDE) of Peru to support a sale of construction vehicles by Candev Trading Co. Inc. (CANDEV) of Brossard, Quebec, to Caceres Contratistas Generales S.A., a Peruvian contracting firm. The sale involves the supply of 12 dump trucks and one tractor manufactured by Mack Trucks Incorporated of Islington, Ontario and one 50-ton low-bow trailer manufactured by J.C. Trailer of Richmond Hill,

Ontario.

Proved crude oil reserves from the East Coast have increased Canada's supply of recoverable oil to 6.7 billion barrels, according to the Canadian Petroleum Association. It is the first increase in oil reserves in 12 years. Analysts suggest the Hibernia field could contain as much as 1.8 billion barrels of high quality crude oil.

The recent Newfoundland general election resulted in a decisive win for Premier Brian Peckford's Progressive Conservative Party, which won 44 of the 52 legislature seats. The Liberals took the other eight seats. Following the 1979 election, the Conservatives held 33 seats and the Liberals 19.

Residents of Vancouver and Victoria can tune into multicultural television in the evenings as a result of a new channel set up two years ago to provide such diverse programming. The multicultural channel provided by Premier Cablesystems Limited broadcasts from 4 p.m. to midnight. More than 300 000 cablevision subscribers view the shows which are broadcast in Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Scandinavian.

A brightly decorated van will travel around rural Kings County, Prince Edward Island as part of a federal project for parents and their preschool children. The mobile resource centre will be equipped with child development toys and material and equipment and will provide information on subjects such as child rearing, health care and nutrition. The demonstration program will enable parents and children to play, attend workshops and learn new skills in an informal setting. It is intended to promote the development of a network of volunteers who will create and run their own programs.

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