

Examples include completion of the development of the VLSI (very large scale integrated) low cost terminals, captioning for deaf users, person-to-person communications hardware and improved software;

- up front support for certain important national and international TELIDON systems, including a national broadcast teletext service in the two official Canadian languages;
- support for market development and standards;
- support for public interest initiatives to permit consumers and certain minorities or disadvantaged groups lacking resources to exploit TELIDON as a communications medium.

#### THE HIBERNIA DISCOVERY

Three hundred kilometres east of St. John's, Newfoundland, in the fishing grounds of the Grand Banks, is an oil field named Hibernia that could be the first step in turning Canada's Atlantic region into an energy El Dorado.

In the summer of 1979, a consortium now led by Mobil Oil Canada Limited struck oil in the Hibernia field not far from where the Titanic sank in 1912. Mobil has just completed test drilling at its third appraisal well, Hibernia B-08, and describes the well as "the most productive yet tested on the Hibernia structure". In a December test at a depth of between 581 and 591 metres, oil flowed at the rate of 5,730 barrels a day and natural gas at a daily rate of 10.57 million cubic feet. Hibernia B-08 is 4 kilometres north of the site where oil was first discovered in the Hibernia field.

These results are part of a continuing series of tests (a fourth appraisal well is being drilled) to determine the amount of oil in the Hibernia field and to locate sites for future production platforms. Mobil and its partners (Gulf Canada Ltd., Chevron Standard Ltd., Petro-Canada - the state oil company - and Columbia Gas Development of Canada Ltd.) believe the field could hold between one billion and 1.5 billion barrels of high quality crude oil.

Year-round drilling in the Hibernia field, however, is an estimated five years and \$ 4 billion away. The find is believed capable of supporting some 200,000 barrels a day of production later in the decade. In the meantime the oil companies have commissioned 96 environmental and technical studies. Research, both publicly and privately funded, is underway to gather reliable information and statistics on the most serious hurdles: weather, ice and pollution.

The potential problems in the Hibernia field are great: icebergs, freak waves, pack ice, fog, snow, freezing spray and hurricanes. In April-June, as many as 400 icebergs, some weighing up to 10 million tons, can reach the Hibernia region, often leaving massives gouges in the sea bottom. Pack ice from 1-15 metres thick can travel at high speeds and exert untold pressure. Freezing spray and 20-metre waves can also afflict the area, along with 100 knot winds and summer fogs that bring visibility of less than 1 km four days out of ten. There is also the ever present threat of blow-outs and oil spills. The Grand Banks contain