

content in frontier oil and gas exploration and development will be strengthened by Petro-Canada's option to acquire up to 25 percent working interest on lands where no significant discoveries have been made. This option is based on the amount of Canadian ownership in exploration ventures and cannot be exercised if more than 35 percent of a company or venture is Canadian owned.

Federal technical surveys are helping to expand further Canada's already abundant supplies of uranium. Foreign sales of uranium are controlled by policies to assure Canada will have enough nuclear fuel in future, and to prevent misuse of Canadian nuclear fuel exports.

Hydro-electric power

Electrical energy will play a large future role throughout Canada. A federal loan of \$193 million will assist in movement of power from Manitoba's Nelson River sites. This is in addition to an earlier \$244 million provided for the Nelson River development. Under a policy of financing 50 per cent of the first nuclear plant in any province, the Federal Government budgeted \$118 million for loans to New Brunswick and Quebec in 1976-77.

Improvement of electrical supply in Atlantic Canada is being promoted by loans for nuclear power in New Brunswick, financial aid for a submarine cable between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, an interconnection between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and offers of aid for an inventory of Newfoundland energy resources and for a transmission system to carry power from the proposed Gull Island hydro-electric project.

In addition to federal-provincial home-insulation programs, the Federal Government has contributed \$9.2 million to help Nova Scotia develop other fuels, especially coal, to replace oil.

An inventory of the nation's coal resources is being made with provincial co-operation. A comprehensive coal policy, recognizing the vital provincial role, is being prepared.

Upgrading of transportation facilities at the Lakehead will facilitate movement of western Canadian coal to Ontario.

The Federal Government is financing research into methods of converting

coal into gaseous and liquid fuels. Eight research agreements have so far been signed. Funding is to be increased to \$1.25 million.

An extremely important goal is to develop new technology to tap western Canada's heavy oil and oil-sands resources. A \$96-million joint research fund with Alberta has been financed, and a \$16.1-million heavy-oils research program is being undertaken jointly with Saskatchewan.

Solar energy

In an effort to hasten development of solar energy and other alternative forms of energy with a potential for the longer term, the Federal Government is financing 20 solar demonstration houses.

The federal sales tax is being eliminated from specified solar-energy equipment.

Energy research and development funds will total \$138 million in 1977-78. A larger share than in the past will go towards renewable energy projects.

A \$3-million grant has been made to the Institute of Man and Resources in Prince Edward Island for renewable energy research. An additional \$1.8 million has been contributed to studies of harnessing the Bay of Fundy tides.

A National Advisory Committee on Conservation and Renewable Energy, chaired by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, is being created and will be an important source of policy advice.

The Federal Government is engaged in joint renewable energy programs with several provinces, including Alberta, Ontario and the Atlantic provinces.

A bill has been introduced to create the Petroleum Corporations Monitoring Act, legislation to force petroleum companies to report as aspects of their cash flow resulting from increased revenues. This will enable the Government to ensure that a significant portion of the increase is invested in exploration and development of petroleum and natural gas resources.

Call for decisive commitment to end starvation

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan called on all member countries of the United Nations World Food Council to make a decisive and resolute commitment to eradicating hunger and malnutrition wherever it occurs in the world.

Speaking on behalf of Canada and seven other Western countries at the Council's third session, in Manila last month, Mr. Whelan said that all 36 countries of the Council must recognize the link between hunger and malnutrition and adequate food production.

"At a world level, increasing food production involves both improving the emerging partnership among all countries both developed and developing, and at the individual country level among farmers, suppliers and consumers," the Minister said. "We must not forget the contribution that food processing can make to reducing food waste."

Mr. Whelan emphasized that the Council must recognize that eradication of hunger was linked to the proper flow of resources — both internal and external — for agricultural development, and to agricultural "inputs" as well as

food aid, food security, trade and equitable distribution of income.

He expressed belief that this third session of Council (June 20 to 24) whose individual representatives were at the ministerial level, could make a significant contribution to a better world economic order.

Mr. Whelan's remarks followed the election by acclamation of Canadian Government career officer Roger Bull as World Food Council Rapporteur for the next two years. Mr. Bull's regular position is minister (Economic/Commercial) for Canada's Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce at the Canadian Embassy in Rome.

Unemployment rate

The number of unemployed decreased in June for the second successive month to a total of 814,000, reports Statistics Canada. Despite decline in the actual number of jobless, the unemployment rate, when seasonally adjusted, was up slightly to 8 per cent, from 7.9 per cent in May.