



Bulletin

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DRAMATIC PROGRAM OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

A sweeping federal program to accelerate both development and conservation in Canada's North has been outlined by Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Jean Chrétien.

Aimed at a balanced approach to the development and conservation of natural resources in the Far North, the program embodies northern land-use regulations, arctic land-use research (ALUR) a task force on conservation, and comprehensive trials of tracked vehicles specially designed for operating over tundra. Mr. Chrétien noted that this four-point program was in addition to the Northern Inland Waters Bill and the Arctic Seas Pollution Prevention Bill, which he recently introduced in Parliament.

REGULATIONS FOR LAND USE

Northern land-use regulations, designed to give

protection from unnecessary damage to the unique and often fragile northern environment, will be implemented under the authority of proposed amendments to the Territorial Lands Act, which Mr. Chrétien will be presenting to Parliament in the next few weeks.

The new rules require that individuals or companies wishing to carry out land-use operations on public terrain in the North must comply with conditions relating to operating techniques, the method and timing of operations, types of equipment that may be used, and so on. Specific operating guide-lines to apply in "land management" zones will be laid down, and persons or companies will be required to acquire a land-use permit to conduct operations within these zones, as well as pay fees for the use of land at a standard rate an acre affected in the course of their operations.

A working group representing the oil and gas and mining industries and national and northern conservation organizations has been directly involved in framing the regulations.

ARCTIC LAND-USE RESEARCH

In the course of developing the land-use regulations, the need for Arctic land-use research became apparent. To obtain information about the short- and long-term effects of man-made disturbance of the northern environment, several Canadian universities were asked by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in March 1969 to take part in a study aimed at developing a land-use research program for the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

The researchers were given a list of problems and subsequently made recommendations to the Minister for the most suitable research methods and techniques for solving these problems. These studies and recommendations have developed into the Arctic Land-Use Research (ALUR) Program.

The aims of the 1970-71 ALUR program, which

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