



CANADA

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A WILDLIFE PROGRAMME FOR CANADA

The following is a partial text of a brief recently presented to the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Mr. Arthur Laing:

Wildlife, a renewable resource, contributes to the national economy and provides millions of man-hours of priceless outdoor recreation. There are almost 800,000 hunters in Canada, many associated with regional and national organizations. In 1961 they spent about \$90 million in pursuing their sport.

A great number of Canadian and foreign visitors use the resource in other ways: they study, photograph or just look at wildlife, and they travel many miles to do so. Wildlife is a major attraction for visitors to our national and provincial parks. There were over nine million visitors to our national parks in 1964.

The demand for wildlife increases with population growth and the rising standard of living. Evidence from Britain and the United States indicates that the increase in demand continues as the population grows.

Generally, the supply of wildlife has grown smaller as the number of Canadians has grown larger. Drainage of wetlands, the destruction of natural cover for urban development, agriculture and forestry, and the construction of dams have reduced the area of habitat for some species. Wildlife numbers depend upon the extent and quality of available habitat.

NEED FOR NATIONAL POLICY

Although jurisdiction over wildlife is divided between Canada and the provinces, the critical status of

some wildlife species calls for a national policy on wildlife and a co-operative approach with the provinces to the problems of wildlife management. At the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers meeting in June 1964, it was agreed that there were urgent wildlife problems demanding immediate attention.

It was unanimously agreed that the Federal Government should take positive action for the conservation of migratory birds. Opinion differed on the desirable extent of federal aid in respect to wildlife coming under provincial jurisdiction.

The programme outlined below reflects the acknowledged need for constructive action in regard to migratory birds, and is flexible and permissive in regard to other wildlife. The proposed National Wildlife Programme has three parts:

- (1) enactment of a Canada Wildlife Act;
- (2) an expansion of activity in support of migratory birds (including institution of a federal migratory-bird hunting licence);
- (3) an expansion of research needed for the better management of wildlife in Canada generally....

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The Act should provide for:

- (1) the establishment of wildlife research areas and laboratories;
- (2) agreements between Canada and the provinces for the protection, study, development and utilization of wildlife resources;
- (3) similar agreements between the Minister and other persons or organizations concerned with wildlife;

(Over)