



Students hired by the Employment and Immigration Department, under the Summer Job Corps Program, clear away soil in search of Indian longhouses of five centuries ago. They helped Dr. William Finlayson, of the University of Western Ontario, in a major research project into Ontario Indian history this summer.

clusively for skill training. Some \$20 million would be used for the development, with the provinces, industry and labour, of measures to help industry overcome critical trade skill shortages. Another \$20 million would, said Mr. Cullen, be added to the program of skill training in and by industry, and \$30 million would be used to cover the institutional costs of increased skill training for industry. A portable wage subsidy would be developed to spur the re-employment of people laid off as a result of the economic shifts that would be associated with future growth.

Commitment to young Canadians

A main feature of the 1979-80 employment program was the development of a strategy to increase youth employment, particularly in private industry at a cost of \$225 million in 1979-80. "We are expanding our Summer Youth Employment Program and will be increasing our expenditures on Year-Round Youth Employment and Employability from \$14.5 million planned for this fiscal year to nearly \$110 million in the coming year," the minister went on.

In 1979-80, the Government planned to mount Job Experience Training Program (JET), similar to last year's, which provided over 20,000 young people with training and orientation. This will provide private sector employment and work experience to over 63,000 young people.

"We will be utilizing unemployment insurance benefits, in the case of those eligible for them, to cover the cost of the \$1.50 an hour wage subsidy involved," said Mr. Cullen. "The Government will pay the subsidy costs of those not eligible for unemployment insurance. This productive use of unemployment insurance benefits will enable us to mount a \$55-million program at a cost to the Treasury and the taxpayer of only \$15 million.

"We will not, however, wait until next fiscal year to get the JET program moving. It will commence on September 15, 1978. If we, with the support of the business community, are able to meet our target for the program for this year our costs will amount to \$45 million. If, as I hope, employers can expand even more, we will provide the extra funds. We hope to have at least 58,500 additional young Canadians employed this winter because of this measure.

"With these reformulations and expansion the employment strategy, this year and next, will make an increasingly important and vital contribution to expanding employment in the private sector, to enabling industry to do the skill training it needs, to expanding our gross national product, and to helping resolve the employment problems of youth. It forms an integral part of the measures which have been and will be announced by the Government."

Supplements, tax credits explained

Minister of National Health and Welfare Monique Bégin recently announced further details concerning increases in Guaranteed Income Supplements to the elderly and the new federal program of refundable Child Tax Credits.

The proposed increase of \$20 a month to each household receiving Guaranteed Income Supplement payments will be added to the January 1979 cheques and considered part of the regular indexed Guaranteed Income Supplement payment.

The basic Old Age Security rate for all Canadians over 65 is now \$159.79 a month and the maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement rate is currently \$112.08 a month for single individuals and \$199.04 a month for couples. In all, about 55 per cent of the income of Canadians over 65 comes from publicly financed pensions.

The changes proposed in the system of Family Allowances and the new Refundable Tax Credit are intended to provide money to help Canada's working poor. At the same time it is intended to provide a stimulus to the Canadian economy, directing tax reductions to customers of basic Canadian-produced goods and services such as food and shelter.

The refundable credit will provide full benefits even to families who do not pay income tax.

The basic amount of the refundable tax credit is \$200 a year for each child under the age of 18. As a family's income rises above \$18,000, the amount of the tax credit will be reduced by \$5 for every \$100 in earnings.

Early next year, indexed monthly Family Allowances payments for each child will be \$20 instead of the current \$25.68. The reduction will achieve a cost saving of \$690 million in 1979-80.

The result of the proposals will be a re-channelling of over \$800 million a year as a result of the Refundable Tax Credit, and an increase of \$300 million for low-income elderly Canadians.

The changes do not involve an increase in social policy expenditures.

Agriculture Canada's experimental farm system was established in 1886. The department now has 47 experimental farms, research stations and other research establishments across Canada.