

---

## Canada provides El Salvador with hydro equipment

Canada is providing El Salvador with material and equipment to boost the country's urban and rural hydro and geo-thermal power system.

Under an agreement between the two countries, El Salvador will receive \$9.3 million in loans and \$1 million in grants from Canada.

Canada's contribution is part of a multi-donor program to build a \$200-million hydro and geo-thermal project — the Centrale San Lorenzo — on the Rio Lempa, a river system that covers half of El Salvador. It includes detailed engineering studies for construction of a 100-kilometre line and power stations in rural areas for industrial and domestic users.

A Canadian consultant will be responsible for Canadian purchases and delivery while the Comision Ejecutiva Hydroelectrica del Rio Lempa will handle logistics and construction in El Salvador.

(From *Development Directions* May/June 1979).

---

## History mapped out

For the first time a group of university professors is putting Canadian history on a map.

Professor R. Cole Harris of the University of British Columbia has been named the editor of volume one of a three-volume *Historical Atlas of Canada*, to be produced over a six-year period with a \$3.5-million grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Volume one will explore the history and development of Canada up to 1780. The 175-page volume will consist mainly of maps and related text as well as graphs and photographs.

Professor Harris is spending most of this summer in Quebec doing preliminary work on the first volume of the atlas. He hopes to complete the manuscript for it within two years and expects it will take three-and-a-half to four years for volume one to appear.

"The project is a significant one for Canada and for the field of scholarship generally," Professor Harris said. "Nothing like it has ever been attempted in Canada or anywhere else for that

matter, and quite apart from its value for Canada as a whole it should be a unique contribution to cartography and the concept of the historical atlas."

The aim of the project, he added, is to produce a general-use atlas that will be useful in schools and universities and serve as a standard reference work. "It's also intended that each volume will summarize the best recent scholarship for each of the historical periods covered."

Professor Harris is recruiting scholars in a variety of fields to prepare material for the atlas, which will be produced at the University of Toronto under the general direction of Professor William Dean.

Volume one will be concerned with the indigenous people of Canada and their early contacts with Europeans, with exploration, and with the settlements and societies that resulted from the penetration of pre-industrial Europe into the northern part of the North American continent.

Volume two, which will cover the century between 1780 and 1881, will deal mainly with European-Canadian settlements and the social and economic structures that resulted from industrial development. The third volume, covering the period 1881 to 1951, will depict the emergence of a national economy, the survival of regional cultures within the changing technology, institutions and scale of modern industrial society.

Scholars and graduate students from 11 Canadian universities will be involved in producing the atlas.

---

## Buses begin again down south

United States transit operators are looking to Canada for used buses as the gasoline shortage in the U.S. prompts more and more people to use public transportation.

Officials of the transit systems in California's San Mateo County travelled to Guelph, Ontario recently to buy six retired 45-passenger buses for a total of \$165,500. The buses, 12 to 14 years old, had cost a total of about \$210,000 when new.

Jack Quarrie, general manager of the Guelph Transportation Commission, said the vehicles were taken to San Mateo by retired Guelph bus drivers and a mechanic and immediately put into service. They were on the streets of the community,

south of San Francisco, just ten days after the deal was concluded.

The attraction of buying used buses, said Mr. Quarrie was that delivery is almost immediate, compared with a wait of about a year for new ones ordered from a manufacturer.

---

## Heavy oil plant approved

The Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board has given preliminary approval to a \$6-billion-plus heavy oil extraction and upgrading plant proposed by Esso Resources Canada Limited of Calgary.

Said to be the world's first commercial facility of its kind, the Esso Resources plant is to be located near Cold Lake in northeastern Alberta and to have a design capacity of 140,000 barrels a day of partly refined end product.

The board, which heard the application earlier this year, said the plant was necessary on the basis of projected supply and demand in order to reduce Canada's growing oil deficit.

If built according to the original schedule, the plant would be in operation by 1986.

It would partly overlap the construction of a multi-billion-dollar synthetic oil project sponsored by the Alsands Group farther north on the Athabasca oil sands.

Arden Haynes, president and chief executive officer of Esso Resources, said he was pleased that the provincial regulatory agency found the project both "necessary and technically feasible".

As a result of the cost increases, Esso Resources is negotiating with several prospective partners who together might have to contribute between \$3 billion and \$4 billion of the capital costs.

According to Mr. Haynes, certain members of the Alsands Group, led by the Canadian and U.S. Shell subsidiaries, "are interested in participating".

Esso Resources is a founding partner of Syncrude Canada Ltd. of Edmonton, which operates the 129,000-barrel-a-day oil sands plant opened last autumn.

The go-ahead signal for both projects will depend on satisfactory financial arrangements, including world prices for their crude. The profitability of the Esso Resources venture, like the Alsands proposal, is based on a return on investment of better than 18 per cent on a discounted cash flow basis of calculations.