
Agriculture research contracts

Agriculture Canada is contracting out more than \$5 million in research projects to private businesses and universities in 1980-81.

At present, the department has more than 200 contracts in force. Some are short-term projects, while others last several years. The contracts supplement the extensive research done at the department's 26 research stations and seven research institutes across Canada.

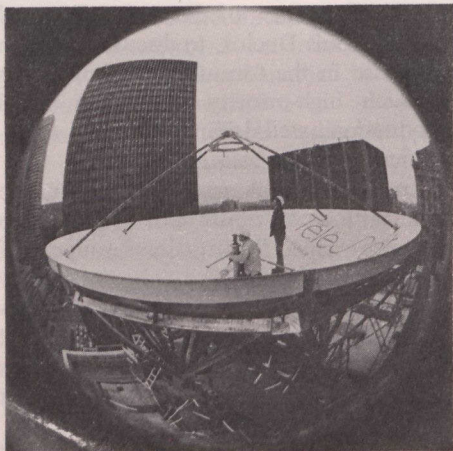
Present contracts range from the development of new milk products to studies of solar power in greenhouses and the processing of animal feeds from wastes. A special program of close to \$1 million has been set up to stimulate research and development in the food processing, distribution and retail sector.

First roof-top TV service

Telesat Canada recently switched on the world's first commercial satellite television service in the 14/12 gigahertz (GHz) bands from a roof-top earth station in Montreal.

Using *Anik B*, Telesat will provide a group of Quebec cable TV operators with facilities to beam French television programming to about 40 earth stations throughout southeastern Quebec.

The new downtown installation is also the first operational 14/12 GHz earth station in Telesat's planned coast-to-coast chain of ten for service with the third generation satellite *Anik C* after its



The first 14/12 antenna for service with Anik C being set up last November on the roof of the Bell Canada building in downtown Montreal.

launch in 1982.

The Department of Communications had leased from Telesat all of the 14/12 GHz capacity on *Anik B* but authorized some of the capacity for resale to the Quebec consortium. The department had leased *Anik B*'s 14/12 GHz capability to conduct a wide range of pilot projects as a follow-up to experiments performed with the *Hermes* satellite.

In the higher 14/12 GHz range, signal interference from existing telecommunications equipment is eliminated permitting the location of earth stations in urban centres where they can be easily serviced and maintained.

Since November 1979, Telesat has been installing eight-metre (27-foot) 14/12 GHz antennas at city-centre telephone company locations in the nine major cities from Vancouver to Halifax. The last antenna will be erected in St. John's, Newfoundland in November. Once their electronics packages are completed over the next 18 months, the earth stations will serve the network with long-haul digital and TV circuits.

European job for judge

Canadian lawyer Ronald St. John Macdonald recently became the first non-European to be elected a judge in the European Human Rights Court.

Mr. Macdonald will represent Liechtenstein which became the twenty-first member of the Council of Europe in 1978. The council is the guardian of the European Human Rights Convention.

The court functions under the wing of the Council of Europe and rules on alleged breaches of the convention.

Born in Montreal, Mr. Macdonald studied at St. Francis Xavier University in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Dalhousie University in Halifax before attending the University of London and Harvard Law School.

A professor of international law at Dalhousie since 1979, he is a former dean of law at Dalhousie and a former law professor at the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario in London.

Mr. Macdonald has also worked as a consultant with the Department of External Affairs and was a Canadian representative to the United Nations' General Assembly in the 1960s and again in 1977.

Fish quality program begins

A national program to emphasize the importance of producing high-quality Canadian fish and fish products has been introduced by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Fisheries and Oceans Minister Roméo LeBlanc said the program, "Quality Excellence in the 1980s", was developed through consultation with fishermen, processors and provincial governments.

The Minister said that the quality excellence program will require changes in fish-handling practices, and establish minimum standards for equipment on-board vessels and in processing plants. Quality grades will be developed as a basis for fishermen and processors to establish prices related to quality.

High quality product

Mr. LeBlanc emphasized that although the Canadian fishing industry already produces products that enjoy a high quality reputation most of the time, the quality is not consistently uniform. "We have developed a reputation for quality for some species, but not for others. This means that we do not always get the premium prices paid by the market," he said. "I hope that this program will ensure that we do all we can to extend this excellence in quality to all our fish, and provide consistently high quality to the consumer."

The main features of the program outlined by the Minister include:

- certification of vessels to ensure that equipment is available for the prompt and proper handling and storage of fish. Certification will begin with the larger vessels, and will include all vessels by mid-1982;
- requirement for the proper handling, icing and storage of fish on board vessels;
- development of quality grade standards to be applied by licensed industry graders and monitored by government inspectors;
- regulations to prohibit the use of unloading equipment and practices which damage the edible portion of fish;
- development of manufacturing guidelines to maintain quality control in processing plants;
- final product grade standards, initially for groundfish fillets and fillet blocks, frozen herring fillets and cured herring products; and
- advisory codes of practice on handling fish in specific fisheries.