

Federal/provincial agreement helps Quebec's manpower problems

A two-year agreement to increase the availability and improve the quality of skilled manpower in the Province of Quebec was announced in July by the federal Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Robert Andras, and the Minister of Labour for the Province of Quebec, Jean Cournoyer.

The two Ministers said that the agreement, which replaces the one signed in 1967, would "play a vital part" in ensuring that skilled people were available to meet the demands of Quebec's growing economy.

Industrial growth

The rapid growth of industry in Quebec has necessitated a complete re-evaluation of manpower training and a substantial strengthening of co-operation between the federal and provincial governments in this area. Besides benefiting the economy of the province, the agreement will offer Quebec workers an important opportunity to upgrade their earning power by offering them a more comprehensive range of training assistance.

Adult trainees, for example, who will be referred to colleges, high schools or vocational training centres in the province, will be exposed to a substantially wider range of testing and counselling services to direct them into the best possible areas of training to suit both their own needs and abilities as well as the requirements of the area where they live.

To ensure that effective planning for growing manpower needs can be carried out, the role of the Federal-Provincial Manpower Committee will be enlarged. This joint group of officials, representing both governments, will be given a

stronger voice in setting priorities, not only for training to be provided in provincial institutions, but also for training conducted by employers.

All provinces and the territories have been invited to participate in the Canada Manpower Training Program and to enter into similar agreements.

Sea cadets international exchange

One hundred and five Royal Canadian Sea Cadets will take part in international exchange programs this summer to the United States and Europe, while an equal number from the U.S. and Europe participate in training programs in Canada.

Fifty cadets from the west coast and 25 from the east will travel to training centres in the U.S., where they will join United States Navy ships for up to two weeks at sea.

East coast cadets from the U.S. will train with two sea cadet camps at CFB Cornwallis and CFB Halifax. Those from the west coast of the U.S. will spend up to two weeks aboard a Canadian Forces 70-foot training vessel, mainly in the Juan De Fuca and Georgia Straits between Vancouver Island and the mainland.

Cadets chosen to participate in the European International Exchange Program will have two weeks of adventure training and sightseeing. Thirty Canadians will exchange with cadets from Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, West Germany and Sweden.

Ten will go to Britain and live with families of cadets who have come to Canada; five will go to Belgium, where they will train on the high-speed patrol craft owned by the Belgium sea cadets. They will travel through inland waterways, the North Sea, and to Holland.

The five cadets on exchange to Holland will go to a Dutch sea cadet camp, and from there to various training exercises.

Another five going to Sweden will stay with cadets their own age, travelling to various bases and sightseeing.

Five cadets going to West Germany will join others of their own age for such activities as mountain climbing, sailing, and sea training.

The 30 cadets coming to Canada from Europe will spend two weeks on tours, seeing Montreal then flying to Comox, British Columbia, for some adventure-

training at sea, travelling to Victoria, B.C., (Esquimalt) for a tour of Canadian Forces ships, then to Vancouver for a day, and another day each in Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto and Niagara Falls.

New legislation...

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existing legislation up to date by recognizing changes in business practices and advances in technology, such as the increasing use of electronic weighing devices that record and print weight and price on packaged commodities. It will also serve to control in a more effective way certain deceptive practices.

Metric units

It will lay a foundation for conversion to the metric system in Canada by defining all quantities — pounds, gallons or feet — internationally-recognized metric units. Finally, the new act will complement the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act by dealing with the accuracy of the weights or measurement of products and commodities directly weighed.

Among the new provisions of the act are those dealing with automobile odometers. Tampering with or resetting odometers on vehicles will be a federal offence, even if the tampering is done in one province and the car is sold in another.

Other devices to be controlled include coin-operated vending machines for the dispensing of coffee or soft-drinks, which will now be required to state the quantity of beverage served in each cup.

The sale or rent of a service or facility on the basis of time, such as the use of coin-operated laundromats or dry cleaning devices, parking meters, etc., is also covered by the new legislation.

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