

CLEAN WATER - A NATIONAL PRIORITY FOR CANADA

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the development of national resource policies, determined by the Federal Government and applied on a regional or provincial basis by the provincial governments. Resources know no boundaries. Pollution cannot be quarantined; it is contagious. It flows from one province to another. The Federal Government must not merely act as referee, it must now act as co-ordinator and must, on behalf of the people of Canada, bring provincial governments together by initiative and persuasion into co-ordinated national policies.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

One way to achieve this is through federal membership in the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers, an 11-member Council consisting of one minister from each of the provinces and the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources from the Federal Government. This Council (arising out of the "Resources-for-Tomorrow" Conference called by the Federal Government in 1961) is now in the process of organizing a national conference to be held in October 1966 on the topic "Pollution and our Environment". The subject was put on the agenda by the Federal Government. The conference will, incidentally, include air and soil pollution as well as water.

As a result of this conference, which it is hoped will be attended by representatives of federal, provincial and municipal governments, as well as industry, we hope to see the formulation of improved programmes for pollution reduction. This is not to imply that present provincial programmes are inadequate. Some provinces are making great advances in measures for dealing with pollution of their waters, but as you are probably aware, there are differences in policies and methods of approach among different

provinces, and between adjacent provinces. A chance for all to get together to compare and discuss their administrative, legislative, and financial problems can be of great value to all....

A NATIONAL PROBLEM

For it is the whole country which must be concerned with the pollution problem. No part of it is immune. True, water pollution is more acute in certain areas of high population density and high concentration of industry. But it is a problem which will always be with us, one which will always increase, and one which will spread as our land area is increasingly occupied. As I stated earlier, there is no resource more vital to our nation's future than water, and I would venture to say, no problem more pressing or of higher priority in the wise use of our water than the control of its pollution. I can think of no use of water which can damage it for other uses to a greater extent than waste disposal. We must not damage our water resources beyond repair, and I think it is becoming increasingly apparent that the time and place to prevent the damage is *before* it occurs rather than to try to cure it after it occurs....

LABOUR FORCE

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that the labour force in Canada declined by 331,000 to 7,159,000 during August and September as large numbers of young people returned to school. Employment decreased by 296,000 to 6,983,000 in the same period. Unemployment dropped by 35,000 during the month to 176,000.

During August and September, the decrease in employment of persons 14 to 24 years of age amounted to 338,000. Employment among persons 25 years of age and over increased by 42,000.

The labour force in September was 174,000 higher than a year earlier. Employment was 215,000 higher and unemployment 41,000 lower than in September 1964.