

Library service for the handicapped

Several Canadian libraries are now serving the handicapped. In the province of Quebec, the Institut Nazareth, Montreal, offers a braille and audio book service for blind users. The Institut Louis-Braille, in Longueuil, publishes books in braille and provides a library service to the blind and physically handicapped. In Ontario, the University of Ottawa library has a sizable audio book collection and has also begun to produce books in braille. Trent University has launched an audio book program, and the Metropolitan Toronto Library Board plans to introduce a Metro-wide taped book program. The library of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, in Toronto, has the largest service and collection of its kind in Canada and produces both braille and audio books for the use of the blind. In addition, CNIB's branches across the country produce materials for blind users. The Central Audio Book Library in Winnipeg, Manitoba, has been producing taped books for visually and physically handicapped students in the Manitoba school system. The Crane Library at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, has a large collection of audio and braille books and ranks second in size in Canada to the CNIB Library. The Library Development Commission of British Columbia plans to develop a service for the visually and physically handicapped, to be provided through the public libraries of the province.

These are only a few of the services that currently exist in Canada. The provincial departments of education are also attempting to improve and to co-ordinate library service to handicapped students; to this end, an Inter-Provincial Task Force on Educational Materials for the Handicapped has been formed by several of the departments of education. The Canadian Library Association is taking an active interest in improving and co-ordinating the service for the handicapped and has established a task force to ameliorate present service. The National Library itself is committed to the same object.

The National Library of Canada, a relatively new national library established in 1953, has only recently been

able to turn its attention to more specialized services. One of these, soon to be established, will be a service for the handicapped.



A visually handicapped person listening to a talking book at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

About two years ago, the National Library began gathering information concerning existing library services in Canada for the handicapped, and it quickly became apparent that there was a need to improve, co-ordinate, and standardize present library services in Canada for the blind and handicapped. In addition to the services already mentioned, a number of taped-books projects have been launched in various localities.

Canadian librarians and educators have become very conscious of the need to satisfy the legitimate requirements of the handicapped and to provide adequately funded programs.

Private and public investment outlook

Capital spending by all sectors of the Canadian economy in 1975 is expected to reach \$36.77 billion, an increase of 14 per cent over the 1974 level of \$32.38 billion for outlays on new buildings, machinery and equipment. (These estimates are in current dollars without any adjustment for price increases expected to develop during the two years.)

Within the total for 1975, expenditures on new construction are expected to advance by 13 per cent to a total of

\$23.13 billion. Non-residential construction spending is projected at \$16.38 billion, an increase of 21 per cent from last year's total; but based on a level of 210,000 new housing starts expected in 1975, residential construction expenditures at \$6.75 billion will show a decline of 3 per cent from the 1974 total.

Acquisition of new machinery and equipment during 1975 is expected to amount to \$13.63 billion, up 15 per cent from last year's level of \$11.87 billion.

Planned outlays for the business sector of \$23.40 billion incorporate an increase of 18 per cent from the \$19.90 billion spent in 1974. Manufacturing plans for expanded capital outlays indicate a rise of 21 per cent over those of last year. Capital spending by institutions and government departments is expected to reach \$6.61 billion in 1975, an increase of 20 per cent over the 1974 figure.

NWT claim-staking restrictions removed

Claim-staking restrictions imposed in the Northwest Territories by a section of the Canada Mining Regulations have been eliminated as of January 16, 1975.

Under Order-in-Council P.C. 1975-73, any licensee may now stake an unlimited number of claims in any area defined by a mineral-claim staking sheet. Before January 16, a licensee could not stake more than 36 claims within each mineral-claim staking sheet in any given year.

Before the staking restrictions were removed, there were differing interpretations of the section in question. It was common practice for a licensee to hire stakers to locate claims in excess of the authorized 36 and have them transferred to himself.

Because of this differing interpretation in the past, Parliament, by statute, has validated all recorded mineral claims and leases in excess of 36 claims acquired before January 16 by a licensee.

(Further information concerning these new regulatory provisions may be obtained from the mining recorders for the Northwest Territories or the head of the Mining Lands Unit in Ottawa.)