

it made federal funds available for unemployed people to develop new products and services on their own. Projects had to show the capacity of becoming self-supporting and be non-competitive with companies already operating in the local and surrounding areas. Financial support was related directly to wages and costs, and all revenue from the project had to be channelled back into it throughout its period funded by LIP.

The second year of the programme was reckoned as successful as the first: more projects were approved (5,869) and more money was spent on them (an initial \$165m., with extensions amounting to \$70m. in the spring).

In a study of the effects of LIP on the people involved during its second year, most people employed under the programme described their work as "worth while"; so did the local people who benefited from it. Nearly half the projects involved construction work, ranging from repainting older homes for the needy to building community centres and recreation facilities. About one fifth of the projects were related to social and health services.

A statistical survey showed that most of the jobs created under the Local Initiatives Programme were among traditionally underemployed groups - women and young people under 25. Only 7 per cent of the workers had been in continuing full-time jobs before taking part.

The programme has proved particularly attractive to young people, who seem to have a natural inclination towards social work and community projects. But a substantial number of jobs were also taken up by mature people who were previously out of work. Before taking part in LIP, 36 per cent of the workers had been financially dependent on Unemployment Insurance Benefits and 10 per cent had their main income from welfare payments.

Though the work created by LIP was of a temporary nature, many of the workers saw it as a springboard towards better things in the future. Questioned on this point, 67 per cent felt that having worked for LIP would help them to find employment in the future; 65 per cent felt they would be able to get higher paid jobs; 72 per cent said they had learnt new skills; 65 per cent felt they had improved existing skills.

Now in its third winter, LIP has been modified to meet present conditions and to use the experience gained in its first two years. A marked drop in unemployment in 1972 is reflected in a lower financial allocation: \$83m. as compared with \$165m. at the beginning of last winter.

The most important innovation growing out of past experience is a plan to involve local communities in decisions about projects for their area. Local advisory groups have been set up to review the projects chosen at government level. Their recommendations, particularly over which pro-

jects should have priority, are then put before the Minister.

Other aspects of the 1973-74 programme are: flexible starting and duration times for projects, to coincide with regional and local unemployment patterns; priority for "first-time" applications; less funding for major commercial construction projects; projects that tend to generate community dependency *not* to be approved unless they can demonstrate a continuing source of support; maximum federal contribution per project not to exceed \$75,000; wages to be based on locally prevailing rates for specific occupations, to a maximum average of \$100 a week.

Mr. Robert Andras, the Minister of Manpower, announcing this winter's programme in the early autumn, said that the first two years had demonstrated very clearly that the answer to local employment problems was best determined at local level. "This programme is more sensitive to local conditions than its predecessors and thus will better serve the people of Canada."

He added, "I fully expect that these programmes will have a significant effect in reducing unemployment this winter."

At the 15 October deadline for project applications, some 13,000 had been received worth four or five times the \$83 million available. The job of selecting the ones to be approved promises to be harder than ever. ♦

Bilingualism:

Do bilinguals, like blondes, really have more fun

Throughout Canada's history the existence of two major linguistic groups has been one of the dynamic forces that have shaped the country and contributed much to its unique character. To safeguard this valuable national heritage, the federal government has taken a number of steps to ensure the equal participation of both English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians in Canada's future.

Few of these steps have produced more dynamism on the Canadian bilingual scene lately than the one of appointing Mr. Keith Spicer as Commissioner of Official Languages. But we will come back to him. First let's complete the necessary historical background to what follows.

In 1963, the government appointed a Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism whose purpose was to enquire into a wide range of questions relating to language and culture in Canada. Following the publication of the first volume of the commission's report, the government introduced an official lan-

guages bill in the House of Commons in October 1968. After careful study and discussion the final version of the bill was unanimously adopted in July 1969 and came into force in September of the same year.

Section 2 of the Official Languages Act stipulates that "the English and French languages are the official languages of Canada" and that they "possess and enjoy equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all the institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada."

In addition, the act contains three main sections. First, a number of clauses ensure that all public documents issued by any federal authority are produced in English and French. Second, the act specifies that "bilingual districts" will be created. In these districts, and in certain other situations, federal government services will be available to the public in both official languages. Finally, the act outlines the responsibilities of a Commissioner of

Official Languages whose job it is to ensure compliance with the spirit and the intent of the act.

In consideration of Section 2, "it is the duty of the Commissioner to take all actions and measures within his authority with a view to ensuring recognition of the status of each of the official languages and compliance with the spirit and intent of this . . . act in the administration of the affairs of the institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada and, for that purpose, to conduct and carry out investigations either on his own initiative or pursuant to any complaint made to him and to report and make recommendations with respect thereto as provided in this . . . act" (Section 25).

It follows from this section that the Commissioner exercises two basic functions, those of language ombudsman and linguistic auditor general. A Complaints Service and a Special Studies Service have been established within the Commissioner's Office to help him carry out the duties