

## Marine weather services

Minister of the Environment Suzanne Blais-Grenier has announced a number of programs to improve marine weather services on the west coast of Canada for the safety of fishermen.

The programs are being implemented on the recommendations of the LeBlond investigation into the severe storm that resulted in tragedy on October 12, 1984. They are expected to reduce the possibility of repetition of the tragedy.



Suzanne Blais-Grenier

### Programs in effect

In the announcement Mrs. Blais-Grenier noted that Minister of Fisheries and Oceans John Fraser implemented a number of the recommendations affecting fisheries surveillance vessels. They include increasing the number of weather observations taken by federal government vessels on a regular basis and the recording of special observations when significant changes in the weather occur.

Greater co-ordination of fishery openings and closings between the weather service and fisheries vessels where there are forecasts of severe weather conditions, are also being implemented.

### New plans

Other programs that will begin almost immediately will include: expansion of a west coast committee that co-ordinates marine safety activities for roe herring fisheries to include the salmon fishery; research into the causes for severe Pacific storms and the development of techniques to better forecast these events; and improvement of procedures to exchange weather observations and forecasts directly with the fishing fleet on a real-time basis.

In addition, Environment Canada had planned to expand the Drifting Buoys and Automated Shipboard Aerological programs on the west coast. These programs will contribute to improvements in marine weather services.

Mrs. Blais-Grenier, Mr. Fraser and Minister of Transport Don Mazankowski, are currently reviewing a number of other recommendations of the LeBlond report and expect to announce additional programs to further improve the marine weather services on the west coast.

## British Columbia institute aids Indonesia

External Affairs Minister Monique Vézina has announced that British Columbia's Open Learning Institute will help Indonesia launch its new open university, Universitas Terbuka (UT) in Jakarta.

"The Open Learning Institute is considered the ideal body to help Universitas Terbuka get established," said Mrs. Vézina. "It is recognized as one of the best systems in the world and it already has extensive overseas experience. It helped Sains Universiti Malaysia develop an open university concept," she added.

Mrs. Vézina also said that "assistance with human resource development is considered the best investment that Canada can make in Indonesia". Management assistance provided by the Open Learning Institute will involve both Canadian participation in Indonesia and the training in Canada of Indonesian staff. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will contribute about \$300 000 a year for the project.

Terbuka Universitas, which has been in

the planning since 1979, opened for enrollment on September 4, 1984, with some 57 000 applications. Enrollment in all programs is expected to be about 500 000 by the time UT has been in operation for five years, making it the largest educational institution in the country.

The new university offers a variety of programs: one for upgrading school teachers, one offering teacher training for university lecturers, diploma courses of one, two and three years, and a four-year Bachelor program. Initially the Bachelor-level courses are to be offered in economics and development, business administration, public administration and applied statistics.

Dr. John Ellis, a Simon Fraser University professor and the first president of BC's Open Learning Institute said that as "distance learning", as offered by the open university concept, goes beyond the traditional correspondence courses, UT will establish 32 regional centres where students can attend tutorials and get expert assistance.

## Nova Scotia university honours humanitarian

An honorary doctorate was recently conferred on Sister Maria Rosa Leggol by Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia in recognition of her humanitarian work with both children and adults in Honduras.

Sister Maria Rosa is the founder of the largest child-care program in Honduras which is among the three lowest-income countries in Latin America. Her large, multi-faceted program provides total assistance for 2 000 orphaned and abandoned children and since the program was founded under the name 'Sociedad Amigos de los Ninos' (Association for Friends of Children) in 1916, 10 000 children have received care.

Although emergency care for needy mothers and children is an important aspect of the work, the main emphasis is on preparing people from all needy segments of the population to become self-sufficient. The program has expanded to include training in job-related skills like sewing; carpentry; mechanics; establishment of marketing enterprises; promotion of agricultural co-operatives; rehabilitation services; preventative as well as curative health care; and assistance for the handicapped.

Funds for the work are raised both within the country and from international sources. Canada has contributed \$300 000 per annum over the past five years to 'Horizons of Friendship' through the Canadian Interna-



Sister Maria Rosa Leggol receives an honorary doctorate from Saint Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia for her humanitarian efforts with children in Honduras.

tional Development Agency toward the work of Sociedad Amigos de los Ninos.

For her humanitarian contributions in Honduras, Sister Maria Rosa has received a number of awards from organizations such as the Rotary Club, the North American branch of the Red Cross and the National Catholic Development Conference in New York.