

## Telesat contract approved

Telesat Canada has received approval to lease channels on its new *Anik D* communications satellite to a United States firm.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has approved a contract between Canada's domestic satellite communications company and Argo Communications Corporation of New Rochelle, New York (see *Canada Weekly* dated March 7). The U.S. company will lease six channels on the *Anik D* satellite to be launched in August.

Service to Argo, valued at \$10 million annually, will continue until December 31, 1984 with year to year renewals possible after that.

The U.S. company will use channels that are currently not needed in Canada to provide data communications services to business and industrial customers, video conferencing and broadcast services to clients in the U.S.

Telesat is waiting for approval of contracts with Oak Satellite Corporation of San Diego, California, for four channels, and with GTE Satellite Corporation of Stamford, Connecticut for ten channels on *Anik C* satellites.

If all three contracts are approved, Telesat could earn up to \$90 million to help offset the company's \$160 million investment in five new satellites.

## Program bridges generation gap

A high school in Kingston, Ontario is running a program that is being used by educators in Canada and United States as a model, reports Louise Crosby in *The Citizen*.

The program, called "Bridging the Gap" was begun three years ago by Loyalist Collegiate and Vocational Institute, and was intended to give students and seniors 50 years of age and older a chance to get to know and help each other.

The program lets students benefit from the experience and skills of the older generation, better understand the problems of aging and become more sensitive to the needs of the elderly.

Seniors, in turn, interact with members of the younger generation, use the resources of the school and participate in all daytime credit and interest courses.

The seniors range from retired professionals to residents of nursing homes

living on low, fixed incomes and experiencing physical or emotional handicaps. Loyalist students also range from the gifted to those with learning disabilities and behaviour problems.

### A new beginning

For many seniors, the "Bridging the Gap" program has been a new lease on life.

Pat Shortell, an 83-year-old former beef and dairy farmer, has discovered school as a result of the program.

Shortell lives alone in a ground-floor apartment, drives his own car, marches through the winter in rubber boots and bare hands, and attends classes in wood-working and upholstery, one day a week.



Student Garth Loney (standing) shares refinishing job with Pat Shortell.

"I'm inhaling it all," he said. "It's an outing. The students get along good with me. I was afraid of them at first, but they accept me."

About 80 seniors — a full-time equivalent of about 25 students — are enrolled in daytime credit courses such as wood-working, typing, home economics, furniture, refinishing, upholstery, conversational French, Spanish, German and art.

They have their own lounge refinished by a Grade 12 class, and their own dining room where a hot meal prepared by students in the food services program costs less than \$2.

Other Loyalist students do odd jobs for seniors: clean house, garden, shovel snow, repair air conditioners, humidifiers, refrigerators, and small lamps, weld metal items and do mechanical re-

pairs on cars.

For students like Diane Wilson, 19, the chance to help seniors one morning a week at Extencicare has been a rewarding experience. The work also counts as half a credit towards her Introduction to Social Work course.

The project was initially funded by a community school development grant from the Ontario government. Next year the government will subsidize 50 per cent of total operating costs, and program organizers must match the remainder through fund-raising.

## Pakistan power program boosted

Canada is providing a \$20-million loan to finance the foreign exchange costs of manufacturing and installing two 175-megawatt turbines for the Tarbela Dam in Pakistan.

Pakistan will finance \$100 million of the \$187-million cost and the balance of \$67 million will come from the Asian Development Bank and the OPEC special fund.

Canada's contribution to Pakistan's development which will be made by the Canadian International Development Agency, brings Canadian investment in Tarbela and the development of the Indus Basin to \$114 million.

### Long-term contributor

Canadian funding for the Pakistan power sector dates back to the early days of the Colombo Plan (1950) and has included the first large thermal generating plant at Sukkur, the first large hydro generating plant at Warsak, the first nuclear power plant in Pakistan, the 132 kilovolt Karachi-Hyderabad interconnector and the construction of a 500 kilovolt transmission line between Tarbela and Faisalabad's Ghatti sub-station.

Consumption of electricity in Pakistan in 1981 was estimated at 165 kilowatt-hours per person against a world average of 1 500 kilowatt-hours with only 20 per cent of the Pakistan population having access to electricity. The shortage of electrical energy has been identified as a major bottleneck to Pakistan's development as most sectors of the economy, including agriculture, are heavily dependent upon power.

The two new turbines, to which Canada is contributing, are expected to ensure that a critical shortfall in electricity, forecast for 1985, is averted.

The Ottawa Citizen