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Federal Government co-operates with provinces to manage wildlife

"Wildlife management in Canada must place stress on the preservation of natural habitat as much as it stresses the preservation of the mammals and fish that live there. A wild animal and its surroundings cannot be separated; one cannot be preserved without preserving the other," according to a reference paper prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and published by the External Information Programs Division of the Department of External Affairs. Excerpts from the paper entitled, Wildlife in Canada follow:

The provinces carry the chief responsibility for the management of wildlife resources. They develop and enforce the regulations that affect the majority of hunters, trappers and fresh-water fishermen. This involves difficult problems of balancing the interests of sportsmen, naturalists, farmers and stockmen and other groups with special concerns.

Each province has established a department responsible for the administration of wildlife resources, often in association with other renewable resources, such as forests. The progress made in wildlife management reflects the efficiency of these agencies and of their personnel engaged in research, enforcement and education.

Federal-provincial wildlife conferences, at which delegates of provincial and federal game agencies meet to co-ordinate their activities, are held annually. The subjects considered vary widely, from the perennial topics concerned with setting bag limits and season dates for waterfowl hunting and the effects of pesticides on wildlife to briefings on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Wildlife activities

Provincial and federal wildlife activities are supplemented by a great number of private and public associations active in wildlife conservation. Fish and game associations composed of hunters and fishermen study and practise wildlife conservation with intense interest. Provincial federations of fish and game clubs have a national voice in Ottawa, the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Youth organizations like the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides intro-

duce their members to wildlife conservation as part of their experience of the outdoors.

The Canadian Nature Federation fosters appreciation of wildlife and supports measures for its protection. Provincial museums and the National Museum of Natural Sciences of Canada stimulate public interest in animals, fish and birds and carry out basic biological and taxonomic research.

All these agencies — federal, provincial and private — are closely concerned with aspects of wildlife management. Effective co-operation among them is essential in dealing with many wildlife problems. This co-operation has been achieved not only through formal meetings like the Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference but also



A fawn feeding from its mother at Mount Laurier, Quebec.

NFB

One-hundred-and-forty-six years ago this week... The first lighthouse built by the French in Canada was opened at Louisbourg, Cap Breton.