

## Battling unemployment

Manpower and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen announced on October 21 the initial phase of a "five-year employment strategy" designed to provide employment opportunities in Canada and complement intended Unemployment Insurance (UI) changes.

The major plan, costing some \$350 million in 1977-78 and involving at least 135,000 participants, will help provide work opportunities for Canadians who lack them. It is concentrated on helping young people overcome their employment problems.

A new experiment will, subject to amendment of the UI Act, permit the developmental use of UI funds, enabling unemployment insurance recipients to receive income maintenance while taking occupational training courses participating in direct employment programs.

Amendments to the UI Act will also be proposed to enable UI funds to be used, again experimentally, to compensate partly for reduced employee wages in cases where employers and employees agree to reduce the hours of work rather than lay off some workers during short-term production cut-backs.

## Programs

The largest single element of the program is Canada Works, a year-round job creation program, which will cost about \$200 million in 1977-78 and provide work for 61,000 Canadians. The bulk of the funds will be allocated to high unemployment areas.

Canada Works will also have an emergency provision which will enable the Federal Government to fund job-creation projects when natural disasters or unexpected shutdowns cause major employment dislocations in communities.

Another program, Young Canada Works, will enable youngsters to obtain experience in the labour market and prepare themselves for their future careers or education.

A Summer Job Corps will provide employment opportunities for students in activities related to Federal Government priorities.

A Job Experience-Training Program will provide young Canadians who

have potentially serious employment difficulties with an opportunity to gain work experience and training with co-operating employers.

The Federal Government will work with the provinces to develop co-operative education programs whereby students combine school and work to help them in the transition from school to the labour market.

Additional funding has also been provided for some existing manpower programs.

## Forest products association gift marks U.S. Bicentennial

The long-standing good relations between Canada and the United States, and in particular the close co-operation of the two countries in the forest-products industry, will be commemorated this month when a wood carving is given by the Canadian Wood Council (CWC) to the U.S. National Forest Products Association (NFPA).

The plaque, in the U.S. bicentennial year, which shows an American plainsman shaking hands with a Canadian coureur de bois across the U.S./Canada border, will be presented jointly by Robert McMillan, chairman of CWC's Special Project on U.S. activities, and Harold Dagg, vice-chairman, to Thomas Orth, president of NFPA at the Association's annual meeting in

Scottsdale, Arizona on November 9.

The artist, Maurice Harvey of St. Jean Port-Joli, Quebec, has carved U.S. and Canadian symbols in the upper corners of the plaque — an eagle above the plainsman and a maple leaf above the coureur de bois.

An engraved metal plate at the bottom of the carving states:

"To the National Forest Products Association from the Canadian Wood Council on the occasion of the U.S. Bicentennial," followed by a quotation by Thomas Jefferson in his inaugural address on March 4, 1801: "Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations...."

## CWC and its aims

The Canadian Wood Council, formed in 1959, is the national federation of Canadian forest-products associations that accepts responsibility for technical, educational and related activities on behalf of the industry. Its aims are: "to act for Canadian industry in building codes, fire regulations and product standards to ensure that forest products can be used to full potential; to co-ordinate research in engineering and fire behaviour so that structural and fire performance data are available to support standards; to educate students who will become architects, engineers and building officials in the proper use of forest products; and to communicate developments in the

