

three north of the 60th Parallel. With these additions, the national park system has expanded to more than 50,000 square miles.

Recognizing the need for more national parks, both to relieve the pressure on existing parks and to preserve representative samples of the natural landscape for the future, the Federal Government plans to continue to establish new parks.

### **Selection of sites**

An important step in the development of national parks administration was taken in 1964 when all policies concerning the parks were reviewed, amended and consolidated in a statement that was tabled in the House of Commons.

Two obligations were recognized concerning the establishment of new parks — preservation of the Canadian heritage and assurance that present and future Canadians would have the opportunity to appreciate and understand their natural environment and to enjoy and benefit from the values of natural areas.

Originally, national parks were chosen primarily for their outstanding scenery and unique features, but today the inclusion of all major features is ensured in the selection.

There are now national parks in all of Canada's provinces and in both the territories.

Growing industrial development in Canada's North and the resultant population increase have brought recognition of the need to set aside land for national parks there, both to meet the future needs of the people who will travel or live there and to protect examples of its natural environment.

The first step towards this objective was the reservation of an area of more than 2,000 square miles at the eastern end of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories for national park purposes. In February 1972, three new national parks were announced: Kluane in the Yukon and Nahanni and Auyuittuq in the Northwest Territories. Development of these three parks is still at the planning stage.

### **Development**

A resource-inventory program was begun by Parks Canada in 1970 to provide a description of the resource base of each national park. The main objective of this program is to ensure the preservation and rational utilization of the natural resources of the park.