

To bring the major implications of this bill into proper focus I now turn to its main purpose, the provision of appropriate procedures for the establishment of ten new national parks. I refer hon. members to clauses 7(2), 9, 10 and 11. I want today to pay tribute to those provincial and territorial governments with which the minister has worked toward the establishment of these parks: Newfoundland, for Gros Morne; Nova Scotia, for Kejimikujik; New Brunswick, for Kouchibouguac; Quebec, for Forillon and La Mauricie; Ontario, for Pukaskwa; British Columbia, for Pacific Rim; the Yukon Territory, for Kluane; and the Northwest Territories, for Nahanni and Baffin Island.

For the first time we will have three parks above the sixtieth parallel. To speak of Baffin Island and the Nahanni national parks in the Northwest Territories and Kluane in the Yukon is to speak in superlatives. Baffin Island is characterized as having the largest permanent ice cap in Canada, probably the second largest in the world. The Nahanni is legendary for its hot springs, caves, Virginia Falls, which are twice as high as Niagara, and a river which runs through canyon walls, some topping 4,000 feet. Kluane has the highest mountains in Canada, extensive ice fields and glaciers.

Bill S-4 is a milestone. We will have a national park in every province and in both territories. Bill S-4 really concerns the enrichment of Canadian society and heritage by providing the procedures for bringing the total number of parks to 28. The minister's hope is that this bill will be followed by others so that by the year 2000 we will have 60 national parks. Hon. members have heard the minister state this goal on many occasions.

Canadians are in the enviable position of being able to enlarge and improve upon what already is internationally recognized as a superior national parks system. We have a relatively young culture, yet within it an abundance of ageless natural masterpieces in our national parks, wilderness works of art if you like, worthy of preservation and protection, demanding of care and attention and insistent upon expansion just as long as time remains our ally. The reward now and in perpetuity cannot be measured.

In the past few years there has been an increase in the number of visitors from this continent, from Europe and the Orient. This is evidence enough for me that our northern hemisphere parks also are appreciated as a rare experience by visitors from abroad. Just as many Canadians enjoy visiting the lands of their ancestral origins, so do visitors enjoy a country where natural scenic beauty is protected as a cultural heritage.

Here is an indication of how our national parks have grown in popularity and usage. In 1952 we had some 2½ million visitors, by 1962 this figure had grown to almost 7½ million, and in 1972 we had more than 14 million. If the present trend continues, we can expect the number of visitors from home and abroad to increase, with accompanying economic advantages for our tourist industry. But without an increase in parkland and proper management of such land, we face the disadvantages of over-use of our existing parks.

There is another urgency for meeting the goal of 60 parks by the year 2000. Although Canada has more land committed to national parks than any country in the

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world, by the year 2000 we will be hard pressed to meet demands for outdoor recreational land. It must be recognized that the availability of open spaces for citizens is not as great as imagined. On a national average, national parks represent only 1.3 per cent of Canada's land mass, 11 per cent is in private ownership, 7 per cent in agricultural development and 35 per cent in forestry and mining to which the public has limited or no access. Open spaces now are more abundant in the territories where sheer distance and higher costs are limiting factors on accessibility.

This brings us to the immediate and future needs of Canadians living in cities and growing urban centres who want and need easy and quick access to recreational land. The byways and special places program announced last October opens a new era of diversified land use for outdoor recreation. To review the situation briefly, in addition to national parks we have added eight historical canals and three new categories: national marine parks, national landmarks and national wild rivers. As well, the program envisages national networks of historic lakes and rivers and land trails for canoeing, hiking, riding or cycling, and low-speed scenic parkways for driving to be developed with the help of citizens, local associations, municipalities and provincial governments. I am confident that the co-operation demonstrated by the provinces in establishing new national parks will be an incentive for both public and private participation in the byways and special places program.

Canadians, and a national parks system which represents their interests, have two mandates where parks are concerned. The first is to preserve the most representative scenery in Canada and the second is to permit wise use by the people who go there. I feel we can pioneer in this area. Generally, the amendments proposed by Bill S-4 to which I referred earlier will help us to preserve what we have and are likely to have. In the past, because of the nature of the parks and lower park attendance, care was custodial. But with an increased public appreciation for these special places, the focus in the past few years has been on scientific management.

The broad approach is one of natural succession, fixed by the constraints of zoned park use. This preservation philosophy is based upon a comprehensive natural resource inventory being made in all our national parks. The inventory is being used to help planners pinpoint which areas in a park need maximum protection and which areas can tolerate different levels of visitors' use. Such is the basis of the parks five-class zoning system. This system ranges from wilderness areas to camp sites, waterways, roadways and high-density areas such as townsites.

A further change in the approach to park management should be noted. At the turn of the century, when the west was opened to settlers, and later during the depression, permanent townsites were developed within a number of our western national parks. In the 1970s, in keeping with a more ecologically sensitive society, the emphasis when developing new parks is to encourage certain tourist and service industries to locate outside the parks.

In the future hon. members can also expect to see further experiments with public transit systems in the