**Northern Development and the Environment**

**Northern Public Works and Infrastructure Management:** The Government of the Northwest Territories is mounting a three-year, $1.2-million program to strengthen the capacity of the government of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) in northern Russia to manage public works programs. Training and advice is being provided on the planning, co-ordination and administration of public tenders and contracts. The first set of seminars delivered to some 60 Russian officials by Canadian government officials and businesspeople took place in Sakha in October 1994. Additional training sessions on financial management, building codes, contract administration and other related topics will be held in Yellowknife in December for 10 specialists from Sakha.

**Agriculture**

**Agricultural Credit Unions:** This five-year, $2.5-million project managed by Développement International Desjardins of Lévis, Quebec, is assisting in the development of a legal and regulatory framework for credit unions in Russia and in the establishment of up to 20 rural credit unions in the Volgograd oblast; it is also providing technical support to the Russian Committee for Credit Unions Development (RCCUD). As part of the preparatory work for the establishment of the credit unions, economic studies of oblasts and audits of existing Russian credit unions have been undertaken. A full-time Canadian adviser is working on site with the RCCUD, and four representatives of the Committee travelled to Canada to study the Canadian credit union system in early November.

**Food Distribution Systems:** Working in co-operation with a Russian food trading company, KOM International of Montréal, Quebec, is managing a $870 000 project to provide training on all aspects of Western food distribution systems and to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for a food distribution system in a region of St. Petersburg. To date, 12 Russian officials have received training in both Canada and Russia. In addition, a comprehensive proposal has been prepared to seek financing from the major international financial institutions for implementation of the proposed system.