

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Honourable Marc Lalonde, and the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, the Honourable Robert Andras, are pleased to announce the preparations which Canada has initiated in order to participate fully in the United Nations World Population Year, 1974. The highlight of this year will be the World Population Conference, to be held under the auspices of the United Nations in Bucharest, Romania, from August 19 to 30. To date the Government of Canada has prepared and submitted a response to the United Nations "Second Inquiry on Population Growth and Development". This "Country Statement", which is a factual account of the present status of population-related policies and programmes in Canada, was tabled in the House of Commons on October 17, 1973.

As part of the ongoing preparations for the Bucharest Conference, the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, in consultation with the Family Planning Federation of Canada and the Inter-Church Project on Population, has been asked to host a series of public meetings on a regional basis across Canada. Meetings will be held in Moncton, Quebec City, Toronto, Saskatoon, Vancouver and Yellowknife within the next few months. Precise dates are soon to be announced by these sponsoring bodies.

The purpose of the series of meetings will be to seek the views of interested Canadians and organizations on the agenda items which the United Nations has decided upon for the Bucharest Conference. These are:

- (1) recent population trends and future prospects;
- (2) relations between population change and economic and social development;
- (3) relations between population, resources and environment;
- (4) population, family and human well-being;
- (5) the World Population Plan of Action.

The Federal Government has written to the appropriate provincial ministers and the territorial authorities to inform them of the plans for public consultation and to elicit their interest and support. The Federal Government is also looking forward to exchanging views with the provinces as well as the two territorial governments after the regional meetings have been held with a view to discussing Canadian positions at the World Population Conference.