

III. RURAL POVERTY¹

41. In Nova Scotia, as in Canada as a whole, many of the poor are rural dwellers. Over the years there have been radical changes in the scale and technology of farming. With the introduction of more capital-intensive techniques, the demand has been for large farms and for farmers with an ever-increasing knowledge and understanding of farming and farm management. As farms consolidate, small holdings are unable to compete, and supplementary sources of income are being eroded. In the logging and fishing industries, part of the erosion has been caused by government policies designed to put these industries on a more rational footing. It is thus most important that the government interrelate its policies through a comprehensive development plan.
42. There has been a continual drift of people and production from the rural to the urban centres. Large numbers of the rural population have migrated to urban areas, but many are still "stranded" in rural areas; indeed, in Nova Scotia there seems to be an inextricable relationship between poverty and land ownership. Many of the province's poor are locked into the countryside, and can be said to form a residual group caught in the process of economic change taking place generally in the primary industries. Labour mobility is important if society is to achieve a high growth rate and if families are to maximize their income, but many individual persons are in a position where they are unable to migrate.

¹ This section is based on a paper by G.A. Connor, Canada Land Inventory Pilot Land-Use Planning Project, Nova Scotia: The Socio-Economic Dimension (Truro, Nova Scotia: Canada Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, (1968) and conversation with the author.