

Canada Weekly

Volume 6, No. 30

July 26, 1978



Ottawa, Canada

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Harnessing of solar and waste energy a challenge and a great opportunity

The Federal Government will spend \$380 million over the next five years on incentives to make more use of energy from the sun, garbage and the forests. In a statement in Toronto on July 4, Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Alastair Gillespie described two separate solar and forest-waste energy programs which, besides encouraging the substitution of renewable energy sources for non-renewable ones, will provide additional employment for Canadians.

"Our objective is to create an unsubsidized Canadian solar industry, and it must be done within the next five years..." declared the minister. "We see no reason why equipment for solar heating can't be designed and manufactured in Canada by Canadian firms. We see no reason why an industry whose 1990 sales are expected to be between \$400 and \$800 million in Canada alone should not be a domestic one."

Solar energy

Four elements comprise the solar energy incentive program:

- *Purchase and use of solar heating program (PUSH)* — \$125 million will be available from 1979 to 1984 for the preferential purchase of Canadian-made solar space and water heating equipment for new federal buildings. A large new market will open up but, within five years, the subsidy component will be phased out, and solar equipment will be expected to compete on an equal footing with other types of systems.

- *Program of assistance to solar energy manufacturers (PASEM)* — This program will be in two phases. Up to 25 grants of \$10,000 will be awarded to firms to prepare solar equipment design proposals. After assessment of the first-phase proposals, the Federal Government will make up to ten contributions, of \$200,000 to \$300,000 each, to assist Canadian firms to design and develop solar heating equipment to meet the requirements of the

PUSH program.

- *Low energy building design awards (LEBDA)* — \$350,000 in prize money will be distributed to winners of national competitions to encourage more energy-efficient building design, with particular emphasis on design features that help take advantage of building orientation, particularly exposure to the sun — known as "passive" solar techniques. Results of the competitions — one for housing and the other for commercial or industrial buildings — will be widely publicized to increase public awareness of the important energy gains that can be achieved through passive solar heating and other conservation techniques.

- *Funding for research development and demonstration* — Federal solar research expenditures will reach \$9 million this year, and new funds earmarked for support of PUSH averaging \$2.5 million a year between now and 1985 will be added. Another \$114 million will be spent under cost-sharing arrangements with provinces and private industry for the demonstration of novel technologies or applications in the renewable and conservation areas.

By 1990 the Government expects the total Canadian market for solar equipment to have greatly expanded, with sales estimated at between \$400 and \$800 million annually. This will mean substantial permanent employment in solar manufacturing and in the construction trades. Distribution and construction activity will be widely dispersed across Canada.

An estimated 15,400 man-years of employment will have been created by federal purchases by 1984.

As it grows over the next 25 years, the solar industry can make a substantial contribution to the development of the renewable energy supply base on which Canada will increasingly rely as the petroleum era fades. Renewable energy forms (other than hydroelectric power) could account for 10 per cent of do-

Fifty-five years ago today...

U.S. President Harding visited Vancouver. He was the first American president to come to Canada during his term of office.

July 26/78