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July 1969

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Min. des Affaires extérieures
JUL 15 1969
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No. 87
(Revised July 1969)

CANADA AND THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

The World Meteorological Organization is one of 13 intergovernmental organizations linked with the United Nations through special agreements arranged by the Economic and Social Council and approved by the General Assembly and by the organization concerned. The Specialized Agencies of the United Nations are expert in their respective fields: labor, health, education, food and agriculture, finance and banking, civil aviation, postal matters, telecommunications, meteorology, international development and maritime matters.

History

Weather and climate move across the earth's surface without regard for national boundaries and thereby create similar problems all over the world. Realizing that large-scale international co-operation was necessary to solve these problems, the nations of the world have made a common effort to apply available knowledge of the weather and its evolution to the main activities of man. Canada, occupying as it does a considerable portion of the northern hemisphere, including a large part of the meteorologically vital Arctic, became one of the earliest participants in this international exchange of weather data.

From 1853 on, efforts were made to draw up a program of meteorological observations over the oceans, based on the collaboration of shipping belonging to most of the maritime countries. This was 14 years before Confederation made Canada a nation.

In 1878, the International Meteorological Organization, composed of the Directors of National Meteorological Services, was created during an international conference at Utrecht in the Netherlands. The infant Meteorological Service of Canada, established in 1839, was not represented at this meeting.

In 1833, the head of the Canadian Meteorological Service, C. Carpmael, sent a full report of the state of the Canadian service to the second meeting of the International Committee held at Copenhagen that year. By 1855 European meteorologists, recognizing the importance of weather data from Canada and the United States, were studying means of getting such information by cable.

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