

Citizens' groups

At the same time citizens' groups were getting into the action, proposing developments of communities of their own. It is essential that such groups be brought into the consultative process at a very early stage, but it is equally essential that their efforts are not expended in a vacuum.

The Chinese community had recently completed a study with the help of consultants, to revitalize that section known as Chinatown, a unique and attractive community in many of our cities which adds vitality and adds to the cultural mosaic which gives Canada a special dimension in which we all take considerable pride and are mutually enriched.

At the same time the municipality, as would any progressive municipality, had its own plans.

The city was already concerned about the lack of co-ordination of the many activities in the inner city and its paucity of resources to tackle the root problems in that area.

They had made a proposal to the province to solve the "skid-row" problem. They had also devoted manpower and money to neighbourhood improvement programs sponsored by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation — the housing arm of my portfolio, which extends its activities beyond housing into the area of community enrichment and planning.

The province's interests in Winnipeg's development was certainly far more than casual. Winnipeg is the capital of Manitoba and is also the province's largest urban region with something like half the population of the province and a greater percentage of the provincial income.

The government of Manitoba had declared the inner city an urban priority and had undertaken a number of major reviews with the intention of launching a comprehensive attack in the area of economic and human resources. Provincial activity was mainly affected through its social welfare, health, housing and cultural development assistance programs.

Finally we, the Federal Government, because of our jurisdiction over such sectoral concerns as the airport, jurisdiction over the railways, defence installations, the site of government buildings and offices for various fed-

eral government services, the numerous urban renewal or neighbourhood improvement programs, had intrinsic interest and influence in the growth of Winnipeg. My Ministry's role, as I have mentioned, is to bring all of these actors together. Winnipeg presented a great challenge and a great opportunity to all of us.

Tri-level organization

We have established a tri-level body incorporating the municipal, provincial and federal governments to co-ordinate all these disparate intentions and to develop our role together to achieve the objectives which will best serve the people of Winnipeg.

At the federal level we have a maze of activities, some of which I have mentioned. In addition we have very specific legislation such as our Railway Relocation Act which can be used as the mechanism to relocate the rail yards and lines so that they are not an area of urban blight but provide service and make available large tracts of land in the central core so that this core can be regenerated and new or improved neighbourhoods developed. This requires the initiative and participation of both the city and the province.

Through the Ministry of Transport's Transportation Development Agency we are working with the City of Winnipeg and have engaged consultants to examine the feasibility of mass transit in one of the existing rail corridors which fans out from the city centre to the periphery.

We have our Urbex program which develops better use for federal properties and the areas in which they are located.

Our neighbourhood improvement programs are working in two designated areas where we have planning under way to revitalize these older areas in the city core rather than bulldoze them and build spanking new shiny white inhuman and impersonal areas which destroy the character and continuity of a community. This is done through Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation which has also, in the last 18 months alone, financed 23 public land assembly projects involving 3,500 acres along future trunk lines.

And also through CMHC, Winnipeg is one of the 22 major metropolitan areas

CDC shares prove to be popular

Early indications of public interest in the planned Canada Development Corporation (CDC) public share offering have exceeded all expectations, says one of the four head underwriters for the offering. Many dealers are keeping offices open until 8 p.m. to provide information on the issue.

The size of the offering, while not definite, is planned to be as large as the largest equity issues ever offered in Canada, or a minimum of \$125 million.

The CDC was formed by the Federal Government to promote Canadian ownership in industry in areas of economic importance, and as an investment vehicle that would ultimately be offered widely to the Canadian public. CDC holdings include ownership of Polysar Ltd of Sarnia, a 30 percent interest in Texasgulf Inc. of New York, ownership of Connlab Holdings Ltd and various other investments. Shares will be sold to the public at \$100 each and instalment plans will be available for orders of two or more shares.

Government joins polar gas venture

Donald S. Macdonald, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources announced recently that the Federal Government had approved the participation by Petro-Canada in the polar gas study group. The company will be joining TransCanada Pipelines Limited, Panarctic Oils Ltd, Pacific Lighting Gas Development Company, Tenneco Oil & Minerals Limited, and Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation in the "polar gas project".

The purpose of the Government's participation in this venture through Petro-Canada is to help the development of an information base on the technical feasibility as well as on the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of transporting natural gas from the high Arctic to the Canadian consumer. Such information is essential in the formulation of national energy policies and is a critical factor in the evaluation of the various options available to the Government in its efforts to assure the adequate supply of energy to the economy.

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