

plied tenfold our ability to provide suitable housing for low-income families and individuals.

I would point out that the substantial opportunities created by the NHA amendments for co-operative and non-profit groups offer a wide choice of accommodation and tenure to lower-income families. Co-operatives are capable of meeting the needs of many special groups of people and they deserve all the encouragement possible.

There are still Canadians who live in deplorable housing conditions, as I said a moment ago. Increases in housing costs do not affect only low-income Canadians, however, and all three levels of government—federal, provincial and municipal—must work together to reduce costs.

The federal government is taking several specific actions to reduce costs and improve the housing environment. These initiatives for the most part are directed at land.

First, regarding land assembly, last year the government committed \$100 million per year for a period of five years. As the result of provincial collaboration, \$150 million has been committed for the public assembly of land.

Second, sewage treatment. The present program for assistance for sewage treatment will be continued past its March 1975 deadline. The minister, Mr. Basford, will be introducing new legislation in this regard.

Third, new communities. The creation of a new community on publicly assembled land provides cheaper land for prospective homeowners as well as relieving demand pressure on land in our present cities.

Fourth, neighbourhood improvement. Over \$40 million has been committed under this and the residential rehabilitation program.

Fifth, railway relocation. The Speech from the Throne mentions that legislation will be introduced this year to provide access to the most valuable under-utilized lands in Canada, namely, the railway lands in the middle of cities.

Sixth, the government, in the Speech from the Throne, mentions the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements that will take place in Vancouver in 1976. This will focus world attention on what Canadian architects and builders are capable of doing.

Now I pass on to our science policy. As honourable senators know, the Special Senate Committee on Science Policy, under the able and distinguished chairmanship of Senator Lamontagne, last September submitted the final volume of its report and recommendations for an appropriate policy on science and technology for Canada. It was the consensus of the committee members that:

The government must now act as quickly as possible to eliminate uncertainty and provide Canada with the federal institutions and policies so badly needed to face the challenges posed by technology and science in the 1970s and in the long-term future.

The government has studied the recommendations of the Senate's committee, and in order to meet these challenges a number of important decisions have resulted.

As was indicated in the Speech from the Throne, and subsequently by the Minister of State for Science and Technology, Mrs. Sauvé, the changes which the government indicated it was prepared to undertake at this time

are primarily of an organizational nature, but will substantially rationalize existing facilities. The goal is to achieve more effective utilization of the scientific manpower and resources of Canada. In order that this objective may be reached, a strengthening of the Ministry of State for Science and Technology will be effected so that this ministry will exercise an enhanced advisory and co-ordinating authority. This involves the formulation of national policies, objectives and priorities to guide departmental planning and to serve as a basis for evaluating expenditure proposals.

On the basis of its study, the government has determined that there is an urgent need for changing the granting council structure and ensuring better co-ordination among the granting councils. A reorganization is proposed that involves separating the granting function of the National Research Council from the laboratories of the council and giving responsibility for grants to a new council to be called the Natural Science Research Council. Responsibility for financial support to the social sciences and humanities will be removed from the Canada Council and placed under the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

The rationale for the establishment of these two new granting councils is briefly this: The government is concerned to ensure that the administration and guidance of university research granting shall be under the direction of councils composed of selected individuals who will be in a position to give their undivided attention and the benefits of their experience to the specific disciplines and fields of research which are to be addressed respectively by the two granting councils.

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The last of the existing councils, the Medical Research Council, will remain unchanged. These councils will come under a new inter-council co-ordinating committee, the objectives of which are:

1. to advise on the allocation of funds among the councils;
2. to ensure coverage by the councils of all recognized disciplines;
3. to ensure standardization of granting practices;
4. to ensure that the needs of inter-disciplinary research are met;
5. to co-ordinate and advise on council programs and on federal government support of university research projects.

In accordance with the government's policy of having government research relate closely to national objectives, the Defence Research Board's laboratory and analytical functions will be integrated with the Department of National Defence. The board's granting functions will be absorbed by the three granting councils previously mentioned.

To promote the better understanding of science policy issues, the government intends that the Science Council of Canada should adopt an active public information role. This is felt to be an essential activity of the council.

Science policy—described in the Speech from the Throne as "the rational generation and acquisition of