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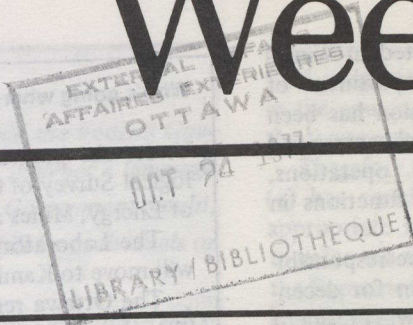
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Relocation of federal jobs as Government decentralizes

The Federal Government will transfer from Ottawa a further 15 units of its departments and agencies during the next five years, relocating about 2,500 full-time and 1,500 part-time jobs to 12 communities across Canada.

Finance Minister Jean Chrétien, the minister responsible for the Government's decentralization program, who made the announcement on October 3, said that the relocations, together with others at present being implemented, would mean that, by 1982, a total of some 4,600 full-time and 5,500 part-time federal jobs will have been moved from the capital area to 24 communities in ten provinces.

However, said Mr. Chrétien, "this does not mean that 4,600 public servants will be leaving the national capital region...a substantial portion of these positions will be filled through local hiring in the communities receiving the units". The Government would try to find alternative employment for those employees who did not wish to move, he said. While no guarantee of jobs could be given, "it is hoped there will be no need for any layoffs".

Five of the latest units to be transferred will be located in centres in Ontario, four in Quebec, three in Nova Scotia and one each in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta. Plans have also been announced for sub-relocations by the Departments of Health and Welfare and Supply and Services from major metropolitan areas to smaller centres.

Language education

Any relocation of a unit of the federal Public Service involving a large group of an official-language minority (relative to its destination), will not take place until a permanent arrangement is made with the receiving province to ensure that the children of federal employees can be educated in the official language they are accustomed to use.

Close to 27 per cent of federal public

servants — over 75,000 — are employed in the national capital region. This is a higher concentration than, for example, in the United States, where only about 12 per cent of federal employees are located in Washington. One of the objects of the decentralization program is to reduce the disproportionately high number of federal employees in the national capital region. Its other aims are: to move the administration of federal programs closer to the people directly affected by them; to assist areas of slow economic development and high unemployment; and to increase the Federal Government presence in communities where it has been low and where activities of a national nature can contribute to national unity.

"The Government's relocation program," stated Mr. Chrétien, "was undertaken with the purpose of identifying units of the federal Public Service which could, without loss of effectiveness, be transferred to smaller communities, particularly those which have been experiencing slow economic growth or high unemployment or where the presence of the Federal Government is low.

"I believe this program can make a significant contribution in the area of national unity. The program of relocation and decentralization can help improve Canadians' understanding of the federal role and develop a greater feeling of participation in the federal presence throughout the country.

"Relocation and decentralization will also play a role in furthering Government policies related to regional economic expansion and balanced urban growth."

Recent moves

Some success has been achieved through the decentralization program in recent years. For example, the headquarters of Northern Transportation Limited has been shifted to Edmonton, Alberta; the headquarters of PetroCan has been established in Calgary, Alberta; the expansion

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Late news

Premier Ed Schreyer's New Democratic Party was defeated by Stirling Lyon's Progressive Conservatives in Manitoba's provincial election on October 11.

Early results, which are subject to recount, showed PCs with 33 seats in the 57-seat legislature (with 49 per cent of the popular vote), NDP 23 and Liberals one.