

## Life skills course helps refugees adjust



New Canadians learn the basics in their course taught by Lucille Bourque (left).

Indochinese refugees in the Moncton area of New Brunswick are taking advantage of a program that gives them the edge in adjusting to the Canadian way of life.

The 12-week program in life skills, sponsored by Operation Rescue, is being given at a local high school, and is reported to be the first of its kind in Canada.

One of the trained instructors in the life skills course is Lucille Bourque, who says it is a course in problem solving and decision making; it explains everything from learning how to go for a job interview to writing a cheque.

The course provides training in several life skills such as sewing, preparation of meals, nutrition, and even home repairs. Instruction is carried out in a workshop environment, sewing in the sewing classrooms, cooking in the home economics section, and the handyman course is given in the commercial section.

Course co-ordinator Serge Langis, who started the program, says the main object is to enhance appreciation of the Canadian lifestyle. Guest speakers at the various sessions include teachers of political science and geography.

## Methods help raise reserves of Alberta oil

Alberta has enough conventional crude oil reserves to last 11 years at current delivery rates, said the province's Energy Resources Conservation Board in its annual report.

The board reported reserves of conventional oil dropped to 4.78 billion barrels in 1979 from five billion in 1978.

Overall, oil reserves increased by 212 million barrels in 1979 because of enhanced recovery techniques, new discoveries and the re-evaluation of existing reserves, the board said in its report.

But increases in production were greater than increases in reserves, causing a net deficit by year-end.

The board said Alberta has 25 years of marketable natural gas left and about 20 years of pentanes-plus, a product similar

to light crude oil.

Reserves of synthetic crude are about 22.8 billion barrels, the board said. Synthetic crude comes from oil sands and heavy oil projects.

If synthetic oil is included in reserve calculations, Alberta has about 75 years of oil left in the ground, according to the report. Production of all types of energy, except pentanes-plus, rose in the province during 1979, said the board.

Daily production of conventional crude oil rose by 14 per cent to 1.1 million barrels a day, synthetic crude rose by 66 per cent to 93,000 barrels a day and natural gas rose by 9 per cent.

More than half the oil in 1979 was delivered to Canadian points outside Alberta, the board said.

## Trade council opens office in China

The Canada-China Trade Council has opened an office in Peking — giving Canada's private sector its first non-government representative in China.

The council, with 98 members including most of Canada's banks and many of its top corporations, was established two years ago to promote bilateral trade.

Ron Crombie, the Council's full-time representative in China, said his job was to provide information on the market and to promote members' products.

Canada-China trade totalled more than \$700 million last year. Two-thirds of China's \$500 million of Canadian imports was wheat. Most other Chinese imports were raw materials or "semi-fabricated goods" like pulp or metals. Chinese exports to Canada include textiles, agricultural products and some small hardware.

The trade council has set a target of \$10-billion worth of trade between the two countries from 1978 to 1985. So far the two-year total is only slightly more than \$1.2 billion.

A recent trade mission to China organized by the Council yielded several new import contracts with four Canadian import companies for a variety of Chinese-made goods, including textiles, building materials, automobile parts, casings and other light industrial goods.

Seven Canadian companies sent representatives on the three-week mission, the first organized importers' mission from Canada to China.

The mission went to China at the invitation of the China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), China's new foreign trade corporation. Members of the delegation toured factories and held meetings with CCPIT officials in Peking, Canton and Shanghai. In Canton, the mission spent one week at the semi-annual Canton Trade Fair, where Chinese manufacturers exhibit export goods.

Lou Hanczyk, president of Perimex Trading Ltd., said his company signed a \$14-million contract to import Chinese auto parts to North America. China currently exports basic auto parts (air and oil filters, nuts and bolts) to Japan and Europe, but Perimex will have exclusive responsibility for North America.

Three of the other six companies on the mission also signed import contracts. A second trade mission is planned for October.

Panorama