

Funding for seniors

Preservation of Canada's native heritage is the goal of two of the 186 New Horizons projects receiving federal funding last month. Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has announced a total of \$1 357 121 in grants to 186 seniors' groups across the country involving 26 000 participants.

The Avataq Cultural Institute in Inukjuak will use its \$9 075 New Horizons grant toward the cost of bringing together 60 Inuit elders and others from 14 northern Quebec communities to Povungnituk for a gathering which began September 28. The elders are giving guidance to younger Inuit leaders and passing on their inherited skills and knowledge before they are lost.

The elders' workshops demonstrated many traditional activities — preserving and preparing "country" foods such as caribou, seal, whale and Arctic char; genealogy (i.e. family ties and Inuktitut kinship terms); traditional clothing, including the preparation of caribou sinew for stitching; native medicine; language usage (Inuktitut); and interpreting the findings of northern archaeologists.

Pictures and descriptions of skills and knowledge shared during the workshops will be published for use in northern schools. Local residents helped to offset the cost of the gathering by billeting visitors in their homes. The elders hope to make this an annual event.

The Senior Archaeologists of Lethbridge, Alberta have received a grant of \$3 872 to help preserve the native heritage in another way. This group of retirees will now be able to afford better equipment for their field work on archaeological digs at sites of old Indian battlefields, hunting grounds and encampments in southern Alberta. They also plan to map and photograph archaeological effigies, tepee rings, medicine wheels and archaeological sites, make copies of artifacts and publish booklets about their findings. The Senior Archaeologists, who have been mapping and surveying sites in their area for 20 years as members of the Lethbridge Centre of the Archaeological Society of Alberta, are also planning to publish a brief history of their organization.

New Horizons offers contributions to groups of retired people to create projects of their own choosing and to undertake activities for the benefit of themselves and others in the community.

Concern over lumber exports to the United States

Minister of State for International Trade Gerald A. Regan has expressed concern that Canada's continuing unrestricted entry into the US market for lumber products — which is so vital to the Canadian industry — could be threatened by the US industry's request for countervailing duties on Canadian exports of lumber products.

Mr. Regan noted that the lumber industry was one of this country's major exporters to the United States. Canadian exports of softwood lumber to the US are currently \$1.5 billion annually, down from \$2.8 billion in 1979. Annual Canadian exports of cedar shingles and shakes and wooden fencing are some \$170 million and \$30 million respectively. The US market is essential to the Canadian lumber industry since exports there constitute over 60 per cent of total Canadian production.

British Columbia, which accounts for

70 per cent of total Canadian production, exports 60 per cent to the US. The balance of Canadian lumber production is in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Alberta and Manitoba.

Mr. Regan said that he was very much aware of the difficulties faced by the industry on both sides of the border, attributable largely to the serious decline in housing starts in both countries. It was important however that efforts to alleviate the problem in the US should not be at the expense of the Canadian industry.

The minister noted that there had been a recent enquiry by the US International Trade Commission (ITC) into conditions in the softwood lumber industry in the US. The ITC report gave no indication that subsidies on imports were a factor in the US industry. He stated that the government would continue to maintain close co-operation with the industry and the provinces on this matter.

Canada and Britain sign radar satellite agreement



Minister of State for Mines Judy Erola shakes hands with British Minister for Information Technology Kenneth Baker following the signing in Ottawa of a memorandum of agreement on the Radarsat program. The memorandum of agreement provides the basic framework for possible collaboration by both countries in Canada's radar satellite program. The program which is still in the preliminary stages may provide Canada with a means of monitoring ice movement in the oceans. Mr. Baker was in Ottawa to hold discussions with government officials and businessmen in the field of satellite remote sensing, space communications, information technology and cable services. While in Ottawa he also visited the David Florida Satellite Laboratory used for satellite testing and integration and the Communications Research Centre.