

## New Cabinet ministers named

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau announced changes to his Cabinet on September 22.

The shuffle brought in four new ministers and increased the Cabinet to 36 members making it the largest since Confederation.

The changes to the Cabinet are as follows:

- William Campbell becomes Minister of Veterans Affairs;
- Serge Joyal becomes Minister of State, with particular concern for Quebec affairs;
- Senator Jack Austin becomes Minister of State with special responsibility for western Canada;
- Charles Caccia becomes Minister of Labour;
- Gerald Regan leaves the Minister of Labour portfolio to become Secretary of State, remaining responsible for Fitness and Amateur Sport; and
- Judy Erola remains Minister of Mines and takes on added responsibility for the Status of Women.

## Winter employment program

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced a \$113.4-million program designed to provide employment for 24,000 Canadians this fall and winter.

The total funding consists of \$97.4 million for federal constituencies generally, \$7 million specifically for projects sponsored by native communities and groups, \$3 million as a contingency reserve, and \$6 million in recognition of the particular need, in centres across the western provinces, to emphasize the adjustment of native peoples in the urban environment and labour market.

The funds available through the Canada Community Development Projects (CCDP) program would be mainly focused in areas of high unemployment, said Mr. Axworthy. Special employment measures introduced in last year's CCDP program are being maintained in the 1981-82 program. The measures are designed to ensure that women, youth, native peoples and handicapped persons find employment through the program.

Applicants for CCDP must submit a hiring plan with their applications and the extent to which the projects reflect plans to hire members of the target groups will be a factor in assessing the proposals.

## Firms gear up for fibre optics

The use of fibre optic cable is not expected to be widespread in Canada until 1985 but several companies are currently testing its application, increasing production and exploring the export market.

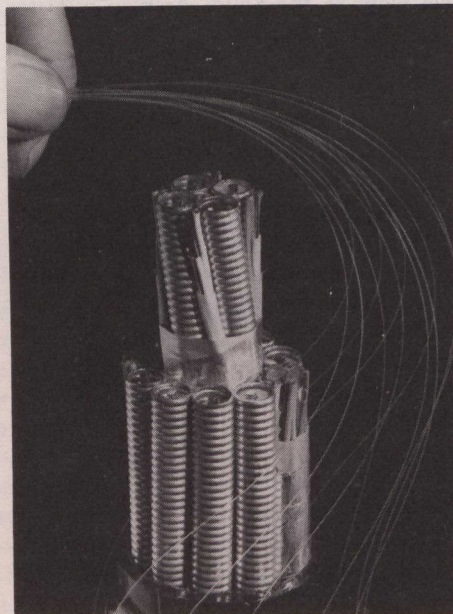
Fibre optic cable consists of very thin glass rods: electrical signals are converted into light pulses, which travel along the rods.

The cable, capable of carrying voice, video and data signal transmissions, has advantages over traditional copper cable because it is much smaller and lighter, has a higher capacity and is immune to electro-magnetic effects.

Commercial installations have been made in western Canada and telephone companies are conducting pilot projects across the country. In Elie, Manitoba, a \$6.3-million test — co-sponsored by the federal Department of Communications, the Canadian Telecommunication Carriers Association, the Manitoba Telephone System and Northern Telecom Limited of Montreal — is planned. It will involve a single integrated network in which fibre optic cable will bring communication services to 150 homes.

The largest commercial fibre optic network in the world — 3,200 kilometres of cable to link 51 towns and cities — has been commissioned by Saskatchewan Telecommunications and to date about 200 kilometres of the cable have been installed in Canada.

The major application of fibre optics at present is in long distance telephone



*These fibre optic cables transport as many messages as the copper cable at left.*

trunk lines where it is cost effective compared with coaxial cable. Other applications include connecting microwave relay stations to switching centres and, because fibre optics are immune to electro-magnetic forces, it is also used for communication networks in utility plants. Fibre optics can handle far more data with greater reliability and speed than existing copper cable transmission.

The three major Canadian companies producing fibre optic cable are Northern Telecom, Canada Wire and Cable Limited of Toronto, and Phillips Cables Limited of Brockville, Ontario. Phillips and Northern Telecom are looking to the domestic market for sales, while Canada Wire is exploring the possibility of eventually exporting its fibre optic cable systems to the United States and Latin America.

## Study on child abuse

Health and Welfare Canada has released discussion papers arising from a 28-month federal study on child abuse.

The study dealt with key legislative issues relating to child abuse and neglect. The documents served as the basis for discussion at government and private sector meetings on the subject held in March 1980 and March 1981.

In releasing the documents, Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin said that she hoped they would increase public awareness of the problem of child abuse. The minister also indicated that her department would continue to assist and support provinces which are interested in developing and improving legislation and programs relating to child abuse.

Health and Welfare Canada has funded 16 research projects on child abuse since 1977. In addition, in 1978 the department established the position of Child Abuse Co-ordinator in its social services division with responsibility for the development and dissemination of child abuse information kits and for the development of workshops in co-operation with interested provinces to discuss issues relating to child abuse.

Health and Welfare Canada has also created a National Clearinghouse on Family Violence within the department to assist government, non-governmental agencies and the public to identify, prevent and combat the incidences of family violence as it relates to women, children and the elderly by providing information and technical expertise as well as undertaking research in this area.