

cultured or best educated, the development of quality of life profiles for urban centres serves more serious purposes related to policy development, namely, to identify deficiencies in the provision of services and infrastructure in specific cities and to monitor conditions over time in order to assess improvements or deterioration in various key aspects of urban life.

To complement the work on quality of life profiles, the human environment directorate within the Department of Urban Affairs is currently completing a research design to survey the perceptions that urban Canadians have about the environment in which they live. The survey will inquire about people's satisfaction with their homes, their neighbourhood setting, the community services they receive, the recreation facilities available to them, their downtown area and other salient aspects of their city. Also investigated will be the aspects of the environment that residents consider most important, the services that they most wish to see improved and the role that they think various government levels should play in the betterment of their urban area. The study design for the proposed survey of people's urban concerns is currently under consideration by Treasury Board.

The list of research activities described is long, somewhat longer than I had intended, but it serves to emphasize that investigation and analysis of human environmental issues by existing agencies at the federal and provincial levels is already extensive. This suggests that the initiation of a corresponding research program within an institute of human environment would prove somewhat redundant.

But government agencies do more than investigate human environmental issues; they also implement programs to manage development of and facilitate improvements to the environment. A few examples drawn from the activities of CMHC and the department should prove sufficient to make the point.

Communities which dump raw sewage directly into rivers and streams are major polluters of the nation's waterways, but the high cost of constructing sewage disposal plants and trunk lines places excessive financial burden on small municipalities. This problem has been tackled at CMHC through both technological innovation and financial aid. From a technological standpoint, the corporation has supported the development of the Canadian Water Energy Loop—CANWEL. The system, which renovates household waste water and recovers energy from domestic garbage, is being introduced as a demonstration plant in a Toronto apartment building. When completed, the plant will treat half the sewage and all the garbage generated by the building's one thousand occupants. On a wider basis, the municipal infrastructure program provides financial assistance to provinces and municipalities for sewage collection and treatment installation, water supply system and trunk storm sewers.

Designed to overcome water and soil pollution as well as to increase the supply of serviced land, the program has seen more than \$1 billion in financial assistance extended since its inception in 1961. Perhaps the most highly profiled programs found at CMHC for the improvement of the urban human

### *Environment*

environment are the neighbourhood improvement program and the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program. NIP is designed to help municipalities and local residents preserve and improve the amenities and living conditions in older and low and moderate income neighbourhoods. Through a wide range of grants and loans the program assists designated neighbourhoods and eligible municipalities with a broad array of action, including the provision of social and recreational activities, the clearance of substandard properties, the redevelopment of clear land for social housing and the improvement of municipal services. Designed primarily to complement NIP, the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program provides funds for the improvement and repair of substandard dwellings to bring them up to locally accepted standards of health and safety.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order please. I have to interrupt the hon. member because his time has expired.

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have an opportunity to speak on the motion of the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker). The motion describes the activities of an institute of human environmental studies for the country working in co-operation with the provincial governments. The proposed institute is very much along the lines of an institute of environmental and occupational health related to the production of uranium to be located in my constituency. This concept was developed two or three years ago after the Hamm royal commission inquired into the health and safety hazards related to mining and also the production of uranium especially in the Elliot Lake area.

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Subsequent to the report of that commission, several of us have worked to establish an environmental and occupational health research centre to be located at Elliot Lake, sponsored by the federal government, the provincial government and the mining industry. Companion to it would be an information centre dealing with providing information on various aspects of nuclear energy and uranium production. During this past year the federal government sponsored a study by the Elliot Lake centre into the design, function and operation of the proposed centre at a cost of some \$200,000. It is encouraging that the mining companies and labour unions are very supportive of this proposal. When we consider what the demand for uranium will be in the next 30 to 50 years I believe the amount of money spent investigating the hazards is small. The Hamm royal commission report specified several areas where research should be done, such as safety standards, silicosis, dust levels in the mines and radiation levels in the mining environment.

Tremendous expansion of this industry is just beginning, Mr. Speaker. Elliot Lake has a population of about 12,000 at the present time and within eight to twelve years it is expected to reach around 30,000. A royal commission in Saskatchewan has mentioned the prospect of several new mines being developed in that province. Expansion of the mines means deeper levels of deposit of ore and greater problems of production.