

Special three-year industry and labour program

The federal government has announced a three-year, \$350-million program to promote industrial restructuring and labour adjustment.

The announcement was made to implement plans outlined in the October 28 budget to provide a special allocation to be used to support "industrial restructuring and manpower retraining and mobility in areas of particular need".

The focus of the program is a series of special community-based measures to respond to serious industrial dislocation situations. These measures will be made available in communities designated on the basis that they have recently experienced large-scale lay-offs that have directly resulted in a significant increase in the level of community unemployment. Other elements of the program will also be available to workers and firms outside the designated communities for industrial restructuring and manpower adjustment purposes.

The new program supplements existing industrial assistance and labour market programs and is also in addition to the substantial over-all increases in federal

funding for economic and industrial development programs announced in the budget.

Communities will be designated under the program for one year with a maximum of two six-month extensions.

Aspects of program

Specific elements of the project, which will benefit industry, are:

- A special program of financial assistance for firms undertaking projects to establish, expand, or restructure operations in designated communities. The forms of assistance offered will include contributions of up to 75 per cent of consulting costs and up to 50 per cent of capital and preproduction costs undertaken in connection with eligible projects.
- A new Industry and Community Development Panel of the Enterprise Development Board will be constituted for the duration of the program. The panel will consider individual firm-specific project proposals and it will make every effort to reach decisions regarding the merits of proposals and the terms and conditions of assistance as quickly as possible.

- Benefits for workers include:
- increased training allowances to encourage workers in redundant occupations to train for other jobs;
 - enhanced and more flexible mobility assistance to encourage workers to find alternative employment;
 - a new portable wage subsidy program for workers 45 years of age or older who have worked a minimum of five years in an affected firm or industry;
 - a community employment program designed to provide productive temporary employment, primarily to help workers during the adjustment process; and
 - an early retirement program, for workers aged 54 and older, provided through modification and extension of Labour Canada's Adjustment Benefits Program.

Products to Mexico

The Export Development Corporation will provide financing totalling \$19.4 million to support various sales of Canadian products to Mexico announced in Mexico City by Trade Minister Ed Lumley during the joint Canada-Mexico ministerial meeting January 7-9.

The corporation has allotted \$9.9 million (U.S.) under a line of credit with Nacional Financiera S.A. (Nafinsa) to support sales of steel rails totalling \$13 million (Cdn.) by Sydney Steel Corporation (Sysco) to two Mexican railways.

In addition, it has allotted \$3.6 million (U.S.) under the same line of credit to support the sale of \$4.9 million (Cdn.) worth of locomotive spare parts by Bombardier Inc. of Montreal to three Mexican railways.

The remainder of the financing involves a \$3.2 million (U.S.) financing agreement to support the sale of radio telephone equipment by Glenayre Electronics Limited of Vancouver to Industrias Unidas S.A. of Mexico and an allocation of \$2.7 million (U.S.) under a line of credit with Industrial Minera Mexico S.A. and Associated Companies (IMMSA) of Mexico to support a \$3.1 million (Cdn.) sale of mining equipment by Jarvis Clark Company of North Bay, Ontario.

Export Development Corporation is a Canadian Crown corporation that provides a range of insurance, guarantee and loan services to Canadian exporters and foreign buyers in order to facilitate and develop export trade.

Parliamentarians for World Order seek consultative status at UN



United Nations photo by Milton Grant

United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim (left) meets in New York with Canadian member of Parliament Douglas Roche (on couch farthest from camera) who is International Chairman of Parliamentarians for World Order (PWO). Mr. Roche was accompanied by Canada's Permanent Representative to the UN Michel Dupuy (seated next to him) and Secretary-General of Parliamentarians for World Order Nicholas Dunlop. The PWO, a group of 500 legislators from 17 countries, is seeking consultative status within the UN.