

We have already held a round of talks with provincial authorities and the initial response indicates a substantial measure of agreement with the objectives we are endeavouring to achieve.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

I now wish to deal with some other steps which we are taking which will have a particular effect on new and existing low-income.

- Social and recreation facilities, in both new and existing public housing projects, will be eligible for federal assistance. The precise nature of these facilities will be negotiated with the agencies concerned. By way of illustration, I am talking about such things as community meeting halls, day-care nurseries, paramedical physical facilities in homes for the elderly, and the like.

- Duly constituted public-housing tenant associations will be assisted with grants. As these groups develop, it is apparent that for the most part they are reasonable, articulate and informed. We feel that this kind of self-help activity deserves to be encouraged.

- A more progressive attitude to public-housing tenants' rights will be encouraged with the publication of a revised and, I hope, more sensitive manual for housing authorities, which will include a model lease.

- In co-operation with the provinces we shall undertake formal training programs in public-housing management. We are already providing continuing assistance through our research program under Part 5 of the National Housing Act for the further study of public-housing performance standards and user requirements.

While it is our firm resolve to increase the quantity of housing for low-income people as expeditiously as possible, no opportunity will be overlooked for improving the physical qualities of new developments to overcome objections to some past projects. Indeed, many of the design proposals for developments undertaken in 1969 were altered to incorporate recommendations of the task force and suggestions presented to me during my own investigation of projects in all parts of the country....

We are stressing the need for careful consideration of the location of new public-housing units in terms of proximity to transportation, schools, hospitals and other community facilities, and in terms of the dispersal, wherever possible, of public housing throughout the community so as to achieve better integration, avoiding the heavy concentrations that result in physical and psychological ghettos.

TENANT PARTICIPATION

Another factor that has been given consideration is the whole question of tenant organization and involvement in the management of public housing. We are quite prepared to encourage this sort of thing as a matter of social justice, and we think in turn it will encourage a much healthier outlook and climate all round and remove a major cause of some of the dif-

ficulties. Along that line, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has funded a series of seminars on tenant participation through the Canadian Welfare Council, which will identify the principles and problems involved.

In conclusion, I should like to assure honourable members that we are moving with all possible speed to meet the urgent requirements of Canadian families who lack the means to acquire proper accommodation.... We are now getting some housing on the ground and are proceeding with a continuous process of innovation and evaluation.

Indeed, in the broader sense the greatest weakness of the public housing program is that it is necessary, and at best is an attempt to treat the symptoms rather than the causes of a deep social problem. In this whole process we are deeply involved with our partners at the provincial level. Ideas are being proposed, discussed and modified, and I shall be keeping honourable members informed of the progress of these negotiations as they develop.

ARMED FORCES HQ IN THE NORTH

Defence Minister Léo Cadieux announced recently that the Canadian Forces would this year, establish a permanent headquarters at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to co-ordinate increasing military activities in Canada's northern regions.

The headquarters, which will be organized during the spring and summer in Ottawa, will move to Yellowknife in the autumn.

Activities of the Department of National Defence in the North are being carried out in co-operation with Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The choice of Yellowknife as headquarters was made in conjunction with the Department of Indian Affairs and the government of the Northwest Territories.

Establishment of the headquarters is one of several steps being taken to strengthen Canada's military presence north of the 60th Parallel, including the setting up of a small aircraft-servicing detachment at Frobisher, increased air surveillance coverage and year-round land and tactical air operational exercises.

Headquarters Northern Region will be commanded by Colonel Ramsay Withers of Ottawa, who will be promoted to brigadier-general on taking up his appointment later this spring. He will be responsible for co-ordinating military activities in the North, including liaison with the territorial government.

Last month the Canadian Forces began a series of ground exercises in the Arctic, which will continue on a year-round basis. The exercises are designed to familiarize troops with winter and summer operations in northern areas.

Some 400 Canadian servicemen are now serving in the North, most of them at the communications research stations at Alert and Inuvik. Others serve at DEW Line establishments.