

their homes by the program, local administration including the employment of staff, and placing loans for the improvement of commercial properties.

CMHC may also contribute 25 per cent of the cost of improvement of municipal and public utility services as well as acquisition and clearance of land where the present use is not consistent with the planned general character of the neighbourhood.

"To further assist municipalities, CMHC will make loans for up to 75 per cent of a municipality's share of the cost after all federal contributions have been deducted," Mr. Teron said. "These loans may be for periods up to 25 years at 8 percent interest and municipalities may also borrow from CMHC the full value of loans made by them for the improvement of commercial premises in the neighbourhood."

Rehabilitation assistance

Mr. Teron also explained the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program under which CMHC will provide loan and grant assistance for the improvement and repair of substandard dwellings.

"Home-owners earning \$11,000 or less, landlords who agree to rent controls and non-profit corporations and co-operatives will all be eligible for assistance through this program," Mr. Teron stated.

"Assistance for home-owners will be loans up to \$5,000 per dwelling unit at CMHC's lowest interest rate of 8 per cent and forgiveness of repayment of up to a maximum of \$2,500 if the housing continues to be occupied and maintained by the borrower. Home-owners earning less than \$6,000 will be eligible for the maximum forgiveness of \$2,500. For every \$2 of income over \$6,000 the forgiveness will be reduced by \$1. For example, a home-owner earning \$8,000 would be eligible for forgiveness of \$1,500."

Landlords will be eligible for loans up to \$5,000 per dwelling unit and maximum forgiveness of \$2,500, providing they agree to rent controls.

"For the rehabilitation program priority will be given to the repair of the housing structure and upgrading of the plumbing, electrical and heating systems," Mr. Teron said. "The nature and quality of repair work should ensure a further useful life of the property of about 15 years."

Mr. Teron pointed out that the rehabilitation program applies to home-owners and landlords in areas participating in the Neighbourhood Improvement Program and in additional areas under special agreements with provinces. Non-profit corporations and non-profit co-operatives may qualify in any area.

Mr. Teron said that CMHC was also ready to receive applications under other new programs provided by the NHA amendments, including Co-operative Housing Assistance, Land Assembly Assistance, New Communities Program, Developmental Program, Housing for Indians on Reserves and Purchaser Protection.

CMHC interest rate raised

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the federal agency that provides mortgage money for thousands of Canadians, has raised its rate of interest from 9 to 9½ per cent on direct mortgage loans, effective immediately.

"As a residual National Housing Act lender for home-owner housing, CMHC must establish its rate of interest at a level close to that being charged by approved lenders," stated CMHC president William Teron on August 16, when he announced the new rate. He noted that approved lender market rates for NHA home-owner loans were now generally 9¾ per cent.

Mr. Teron also announced that CMHC's interest rate for low-income rental housing and other direct loan programs was now 8 per cent. The rate had been 7 5/8 per cent since last January.

Self-service for job-seekers

A self-service system that gives job-seekers immediate exposure to employment vacancies was inaugurated recently at the Hamilton, Ontario, Canada Manpower Centre by Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras.

Known as the Job Information Centre, the system, which is available in all the Hamilton area Canada Manpower Centres, is a major aspect of a new approach to bring jobs and workers together.

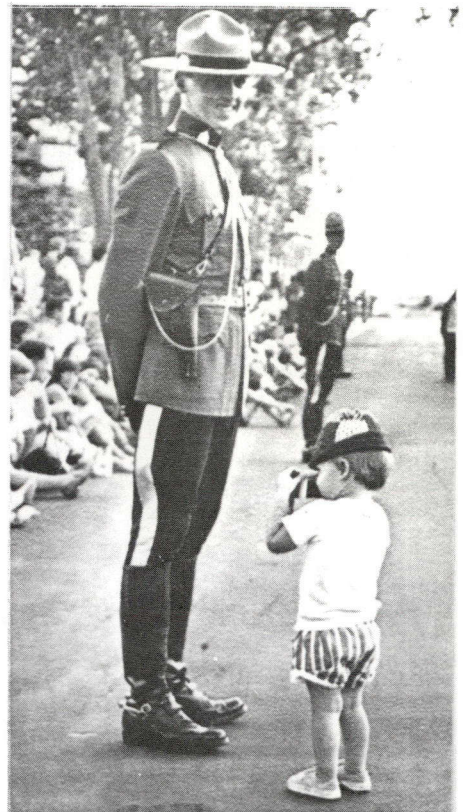
"The Job Information Centre is just

part of a new conception in employment service in Canada," Mr. Andras said. "We wish to operate an 'open' Canada Manpower Centre, where each person seeking employment will have immediate access to all information on job openings in this area."

"The Job Information Centre lists job vacancies through computer print-outs, which cover all categories of work. The lists will be updated daily."

Job-seekers can browse through the print-outs for the jobs they feel are best for them.

"Another benefit of the Job Information Centre is the more effective service it can provide to employers. An employer knows that all job-seekers will have immediate access to his job vacancy," Mr. Andras added. He also noted that Canada Manpower Centre clients who require other CMC services - counselling and training - will be better accommodated.



Canadian Press photo

Don't move!

Young Cory Blashill "gets his man" in the best Mountie tradition as he catches RCMP Constable Art Servante at the knees during RCMP Sunset Ceremonies in Regina, Saskatchewan.