

conditions of the various species. The decline in numbers of certain species tends to occur in areas where agriculture and industry have permanently altered the environment. Over-harvesting and the absence of sound management practices have also influenced the decline of certain species in some undeveloped areas.

Management of fur-production

Fur-production in Canada has responded favourably to management during the past 25 years - particularly the management of beaver and muskrat, which are under-harvested and in some areas constitute a problem of over-abundance. Restocking and rehabilitation of other species, notably marten and fisher, have aided in their re-establishment in previously-depleted areas. Some problems still exist but they are receiving attention. If there is one overriding national problem to be cited, it is that fur resources are not being fully harvested.

Canadian provincial and territorial governments have exclusive legislative responsibility and authority within their respective boundaries for the management and use of fur-bearing and other animals of value to the fur industry. The Federal Government has exclusive jurisdiction over marine mammals, which includes responsibility for the management and use of seals within Canada's territorial waters, and over mammals in national parks.

The principal Canadian furs are beaver, wild mink, arctic fox, muskrat, otter, coyote, timber wolf, red fox, Canada lynx and marten. The current fashion demand for long-haired furs finds Canada in a favourable position, since the bearers of such pelts are native to this country.

There are some 315 manufacturers of fur garments in Canada, who employ 2,400 workers. In 1977, they produced in excess of \$150-million worth of fur apparel, about \$48-million worth of which was exported, mostly to Switzerland, West Germany, the United States and Britain. Canada's sales of raw furs increases, on the average, 20 per cent a year.

