Vol. 27, No. 42

October 18, 1972

NEW CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

"Two new initiatives", the incorporation of Heritage Canada and the establishment of a historic engineering survey, were announced in Vancouver last month by Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Jean Chrétien.

Heritage Canada, a form of national trust, which was outlined last February in the Speech from the Throne, is now incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act as an independent non-profit organization with an initial endorsment of \$12 million. The trust will expand the present national program of preservation and protection of Canada's historical, architectural, natural and scenic heritage through citizen and corporate participation. "There is an urgent need in Canada today," said Mr. Chrétien, "for a new and more comprehensive program for the preservation of nationally significant sites and structures than is possible with the finances and staff resources presently available." Membership in the trust is open to anyone for a nominal fee to all

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who are interested in the preservation of individual buildings, groups of buildings and areas of historical and natural value that are of national significance. One of the basic tasks of Heritage Canada will be the safeguarding of the best Canadian buildings from the wreckers in order to provide an urban mingling of old and new architecture.

The trust will have the authority to acquire, through purchase, donation, bequest, exchange or lease, lands, buildings, structures and artifacts. It will be authorized, within the limit of any bequest, to dispose of any land, building, structure or artifact not considered of sufficient historical, architectural, natural or scenic interest, in order to obtain finances for the support of its work. It will also have the authority to enter into cost-sharing arrangements for the preservation and protection of historic buildings, structures, and natural and scenic areas.

Most of the buildings will be renovated and subject to appropriate restrictions, sold or leased for use as residences, offices, boutiques, restaurants or other such enterprises. Only a small proportion of the buildings acquired are expected to justify the substantial costs of being restored and opened to the public. Heritage Canada is empowered to accept bequests and gifts of lands, including waterfront areas, and can thus contribute to the conservation of such properties.

Heritage Canada will seek close and effective relations with federal, provincial and private agencies. As an independent national agency, the new body will also act as a clearing-house for the exchange of technical information on historic preservation both nationally and internationally.

HISTORIC ENGINEERING SURVEY

Speaking of the establishment of the Canadian Historic Engineering Survey, Mr. Chrétien stated that the Federal Government and the Engineering Institute of Canada had agreed to undertake jointly a national survey of historic engineering achievements.

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