

## Prairies page professionals

The prairie provinces have displaced Ontario as the region with the most job vacancies for professional occupations, according to a survey by the Technical Service Council in Toronto.

The survey, which polled openings in manufacturing, mining and service industries, found that professional job vacancies rose 3 per cent across Canada in the third quarter and 34 per cent in the past 12 months.

The prairies reported more openings than any other region, "ousting Ontario from its traditional position". At the end of the third quarter, there were 1,165 vacancies in the prairies; 1,148 in Ontario; 342 in British Columbia and the Yukon; 324 in Quebec and 39 in the Atlantic provinces.

Consulting and resource companies in Alberta reported shortages of senior engineers, planners, systems specialists and auditors.

Some companies plan to increase salaries and benefits to attract professional employees, and personnel representatives in consulting engineering companies anticipate "a crisis" when engineering work begins on the third oil sands plant and the Cold Lake heavy oil project in Alberta.

Across Canada, experienced computer programmers and systems analysts were in greater demand than any other group. A strong demand was also reported for electronics technicians and technologists, instrument engineers, petroleum engineers, chemical process engineers, personnel managers, plant superintendents, mechanical draftsmen and accountants.

1977 to \$8,861 in 1978. On an individual basis, average income in 1978 was \$10,244. Men received an average income of \$13,522 while the corresponding figure for women was \$6,312. (These figures exclude persons without income and children less than 15 years of age.)

**Suncor Inc. of Toronto**, created last August through the merger of Great Canadian Oil Sands Ltd. and Sun Oil Ltd., says it will spend \$1.1 billion in the next five years for exploration and development of energy reserves. Immediate spending includes \$185 million for an expansion of the oil sands operation at Fort McMurray, Alberta, to raise daily output by 13,000 barrels to 58,000 barrels by 1982.

**Alain Allard**, a former FLQ member was arraigned recently on charges of planting three bombs at political clubs and a Quebec Liquor Corporation store in 1968. Mr. Allard, 33, appeared in court about 40 hours after returning to Quebec from Cuba, where he spent 11 years in exile. He is believed to have been the last FLQ exile on the Caribbean island.

**Two uranium sales contracts**, one by Norcen Energy Resources Limited and Lacana Limited of Calgary, have been signed with the South Korea Electric Company. The contracts call for the supply of about seven million pounds of uranium oxide over an 11-year period beginning in 1983. With uranium selling at about \$42 (U.S.) a pound, the contracts would be valued at more than \$294 million (U.S.) if price trends hold.

**Real business spending** on new factories and equipment throughout the economy is expected to rise by between 3 per cent and 5 per cent in 1980 after a rise of between 5 per cent and 7 per cent in 1979, according to a survey of 300 large corporations by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Respondents anticipate their real capital spending to increase by about 10 per cent and spending on new plant and equipment to be about \$24 billion in 1979 dollars. Projected growth in the manufacturing sector for 1980 is double that projected a year ago for 1979.

**Jim Taylor's \$1-million home** at Ches-termere Lake, ten kilometres east of Calgary, is partially run by a \$10,000-computer. Programmed so far for about 100 functions, it opens and locks the doors, turns on lights around the property, pages people through the intercom and operates his stereo system.

## News briefs

**Canada's oldest primary industry** — commercial fishing — has completed plans for converting to the metric (SI) system. Some 62,000 commercial fishermen operating over 28,000 vessels are involved, together with 800 fish processing plants. The conversion plan will be under the guidance of the Metric Commission of Canada. The application of the plan will be voluntary but January 1981 has been set as the date by which the fishing industry will be essentially conducting its business in metric terms.

**The U.S. Export-Import Bank** has approved a \$42.7-million (U.S.) loan to CP Air of Vancouver for the purchase of jetliners. The airline will buy two Boeing 737-200 airliners and one McDonnell Douglas DC-10-30 at a total cost of about \$71.1 million with the help of the bank's loan at a rate of 8.5 per cent.

**Northern Telecom Ltd.** of Montreal said its subsidiary, Northern Telecom

International Ltd., was the successful bidder for a contract to supply South Korea with digital transmission equipment worth an estimated \$90 million. Northern Telecom said details of the three-year contract are still to be negotiated.

**The federal and Nova Scotia** governments have agreed to build a \$42-million hydro demonstration plant in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Basin. The planned demonstration plant will test a new hydro-electric turbine expected to reduce costs. The Federal Government has agreed to contribute up to \$25 million to help finance the project, which is scheduled to be completed in late 1982 or 1983.

**Pre-tax corporate profits** rose at an annual rate of 49.5 per cent during the third quarter, bringing the corporate share of income generated in the economy to its highest level in five years, according to Statistics Canada figures. The profit surge in the July-September quarter brought profits to an annualized level of \$35.6 billion, up 34.6 per cent from the figure recorded a year earlier.

**Average family income** (total money income before taxes or other deductions) rose to \$21,346 in 1978 from \$20,101 in 1977, an increase of 6 per cent. However, in terms of real purchasing power the average income decreased by 3 per cent, according to Statistics Canada. Average income of unattached individuals moved up 7 per cent, advancing from \$8,254 in

*Canada Weekly* is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

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*Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.*

*Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.*