



CANADA

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## A VITAL PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENT FOR CANADIAN LABOUR

*Addressing the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa recently, the Minister of Labour, Mr. John R. Nicholson, discussed the labour policy of the Federal Government in general and the special relation of his Department to the Department of Manpower, shortly to be established by Parliament.*

*He prefaced his remarks with a brief review of the second annual report of the Economic Council of Canada:*

...First among the economic and social goals which the Council has set for Canada is full employment. For the balance of the 1960s, the Council believes this can be interpreted realistically as aiming for an annual rate of 97 percent employment of the labour force, or a maximum of 3 percent employment for the economy as a whole.

As the Council noted, to attain effective growth of the Canadian economy we must make full and increasingly efficient use, on a sustained basis, of our growing productive resources, both human and material.

The very substantial decline over the past 30 odd months in the rate of unemployment, in spite of our rapidly expanding labour force, clearly indicates that we are moving towards much fuller use of the available manpower resources.

### UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINES

Despite the increased use of automated processes in many sectors of business, we have seen a substantial decline in unemployment from upwards of 7 per cent in 1961 to approximately 4 per cent last year — the lowest level in eight years. At the same time, the labour force grew at a sharply accelerated

rate of more than 3.5 per cent over the past two years, the largest overall gain for any two consecutive years since the end of the Second World War.

But a further rapid growth of the labour force is anticipated through 1970. Consequently, there is no room for complacency but rather a need for continued and rapid growth in total employment, at an average annual rate of about 3 per cent.

Some further economic facts of life were also plainly evident in the report of the Economic Council. If we are to maintain our economy at its present level of progress, we must have the right amount of manpower, trained in the right skills, available at the right time and in the right place. Without this supply of manpower, our industrial and economic progress will suffer. Industry, labour, and the entire community will feel the impact of retarded growth....

We certainly cannot afford to attack manpower problems on a piecemeal basis. The Federal Government and the provinces have been concerned with education and training of young people, with retraining and upgrading of workers whose skills are becoming obsolete, with the mobility of workers whose job locations are changing, and with the recruitment of skilled workers through immigration.

### MANPOWER DEPARTMENT

The creation of the new Department of Manpower will give us the opportunity of carrying out, for the first time, a full frontal attack on a national scale on the serious manpower problem. It will give the Government an opportunity to provide, in an efficient manner, a national organization that will serve the