

## Federal funds fight unemployment

A \$150-million Local Initiatives Program (LIP) will spearhead the federal effort against unemployment this autumn, compared to last year's budget of \$96 million.

The primary object of LIP is to reduce unemployment by inviting Canadians to submit proposals for community projects that will provide jobs. The projects are funded by the Federal Government.

Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras said in a recent news release that LIP 1975/76 would be basically unaltered from the program that has created a quarter of a million short-term jobs in four years.

"The major change," Mr. Andras said, "is that we have doubled the size of projects for which municipalities can apply, to \$150,000 per project. This will allow local governments to continue to fund innovative projects creating employment for Canadians."

### Other improvements

Other significant changes are the increased level of funding and the earlier starting date. This year, projects may start operating November 3, one month earlier than last year. In exceptional cases, a program may be permitted to begin during October. Applications, which were available early in July at Canada Manpower Centres, must be submitted by September 12.

Another important feature of this year's program is that private companies can sponsor projects. Their proposals must be of community benefit and meet other criteria. Any profits will be used to reduce the Government's contribution.

LIP's strength as a job-creating measure in times of seasonal slow-down in Canadian communities has been demonstrated in four successive years. An economic study of the impact of the program has shown that expenditures of some \$490 million in those years resulted in an increase of \$723 million in the gross national product.

To be eligible, projects must: create new jobs; provide a worthwhile facility or service to the community; have the support of the local community; not duplicate existing facilities or services; have adequate financing for any costs over and above the allow-

able federal contribution; keep proposals to a maximum of \$100,000 (\$15,000 for municipal projects); employ only the unemployed; not support leisure activities solely for the sponsor; and not primarily improve the property of individuals.

This year LIP wages must average no more than \$125 a week — slightly higher than last winter's average salary. Final decisions on all projects will be left to the Minister.

### Special program

The special \$450-million direct employment program announced on June 23 in the budget will benefit hundreds of thousands of unemployed Canadians over the next two years.

In 1975/76 the regular budget for these manpower programs amounts to more than \$700 million, including: \$100 million for 450 Canada Manpower Centres with a staff of 6,741; \$480 million for manpower training which will provide full-time occupational training for 265,000 Canadians with a measured benefit/cost return of \$6 for every dollar invested; \$10 million for manpower mobility; \$4.5 million for special agricultural manpower programs; more than \$60 million for Opportunities for Youth and the carry-over costs of 1974/75 LIP; and \$20 million for special programs for disadvantaged workers.

In addition, the Department has been authorized to spend \$50 million over three years to launch a Community Employment Strategy.

The special \$450 million supplement will consist of \$285 million for the restructured Local Initiatives Program, detailed above. The program, over two years, is expected to create some 420,000 months of employment for about 80,000; \$70 million for additional manpower training which will enable 85,000 more of Canada's unemployed workers to prepare for future opportunities; \$25 million for a federal Labour Intensive Program, details of which will be announced by the President of the Treasury Board and which will create an estimated 30,000 months of work for about 6,000; \$60 million for a 1976 Student Summer Employment and Activities Program which will create some 33,000 jobs, provide non-salaried activities for an estimated 190,000 students, and encourage 200,000 jobs in the private sector for students; \$10

million for intensified activities in mobility and job-matching activity, which will help move workers from high unemployment areas to areas where jobs matching their skills exist.

The addition of \$70 million to the \$480 million 1975/76 budget for Canada Manpower Training Programs will be devoted to training the unemployed and will be distributed across Canada in accordance with the levels of unemployment. About half of the extra will go to industrial training.

The mix for the 1976 Summer Student Employment and Activities program, to be funded at more than \$60 million, will be developed by an interdepartmental committee headed by the Department of Manpower and Immigration. Opportunities for Youth will be the largest component of the summer program since it has the same general characteristics as LIP, and has been equally as successful.

To increase the effectiveness of manpower mobility and job-matching, CMC staff will participate with individual employers in intensive cross-Canada recruiting campaigns. Staff and employers will identify areas of "shortage occupations" in key industries, and skilled unemployed workers who could fill the jobs will be recruited, and provided with financial assistance if they are willing to move either temporarily or permanently to where the jobs are.

## Kenya, Sudan land reclamation and afforestation grants

The President of the International Development Research Centre, Dr. W. David Hopper, has announced a grant of \$165,000 to support the land-reclamation experiments in the Kerma Basin of northern Sudan, and a further grant of \$199,500 to support the afforestation research in Kenya. These two countries, which have large areas of desert and dry land as well as well-watered farming regions, are experimenting with forestry techniques to increase the acreage they can put under cultivation for crops.

In the Sudan, scientists of the Forest Research and Education Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture are planting shelterbelts composed of trees such as eucalyptus and cassia, to protect crop