

earthquakes occur every year in the St. Lawrence Valley alone, although most are small and barely felt. In addition, much of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valleys, with their thick deposits of marine clays, are subject to landslides. A large earthquake at a certain time of year could trigger landslides all over Eastern Canada. When locating a dam in Quebec, or plotting a pipeline through the Yukon or Mackenzie Valley, a detailed knowledge of local seismicity is vital. The seismologists have prepared a seismic risk map as a guide for engineers, and on request provide the very latest figures on the risk of earthquakes anywhere in Canada.

In Western Canada, a special network of *strong motion* instruments has been installed in buildings built on a variety of rock and soil formations. In this way, the seismologists can measure how the ground motion produced by an earthquake varies with the soil and underlying rock. The cities of Vancouver and Victoria are especially prone to tremors, yet are rapidly developing with highrise construction, new port facilities and projected underwater tunnels. Seismic information from the strong motion network serves as a guide to engineering structures that are both safe and economical.

Besides permanent networks, temporary seismograph stations are established for special research purposes. In earthquake-prone areas of Quebec and British Columbia, for example, ultra-sensitive instruments are used to record very small disturbances called *micro-earthquakes*. Minor disturbances may signal the build-up of stresses that could erupt in a major earthquake.

In one recent field study, the Earth Physics Branch detonated 20 large explosions in an isolated British Columbia lake, providing a repetitive source of seismic waves to nearly a dozen universities and government research groups in Western Canada and the United States.

#### Alberta first for neighbourhood facelift

Alberta is the first province to authorize municipal participation in the National Housing Act's new Neighbourhood Improvement Program (NIP).

This program, one of the major innova-

tions included in recent amendments to the National Housing Act, offers both grants and loans from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to assist municipalities in upgrading their older residential neighbourhoods. Selection of municipalities is made by the province.

Urban Affairs Minister Ron Basford said he was delighted by Alberta's immediate response to the NIP program. "Alberta is the first province to respond to this program of preserving old neighbourhoods through sensitive rehabilitation to make them pleasant places in which to live. This is a much more appropriate answer to the problems of older neighbourhoods than the bulldozer clearance technique from which the Federal Government withdrew its support several years ago."

A total of \$4 million in federal funds has been reserved for neighbourhood improvement in Alberta during the next 18 months. Principal support will be through outright CMHC grants equal to half the costs of most elements of the improvement programs, including purchase of land and construction of community social and recreational facilities. Low-interest loans will also be made to municipalities to underwrite 75 per cent of their share of costs.

Neighbourhoods selected by municipalities for NIP programs also become eligible for new federal rehabilitation assistance for low and moderate-income homeowners to ensure their dwellings meet acceptable standards. Assistance is also available to landlords for improving rental accommodation, providing they agree the improvements will not result in higher rents.

#### Push for book exports

Eleven directors of the Association for the Export of Canadian Books and some Federal Government officials met recently at the Château Montebello in Montebello, Quebec, for the AECEB's first annual meeting. The Association is now assisting 60 exporting publishers from across Canada. The board of directors is made up of representatives of the five Canadian publishers' associations — Canadian Book Publishers' Council, Association des Éditeurs Canadiens, Association des éditeurs de manuels scolaires du Qué-

bec Inc., Independent Publishers' Association, and the Association of Canadian University Presses. The Federal Government program of aid, announced in February 1972 by the Secretary of State Department and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, provides for a subsidy of \$1 million over a three-year period to facilitate the organization of book-marketing centres in three major markets — Britain, Continental Europe, and the United States.

In their first eight months of operation, the AECEB has already established a distribution centre and staff in London and will open a retail outlet in October. The Paris distribution and display centre opens this month. For the U.S. market, a warehouse has been established in Buffalo, New York, where sales have already started.

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