

TRADE UNIONS IN 1970

A considerable growth of the trade union movement in Canada is shown by a survey made in 1970 of labour organizations by the Canada Department of Labour.

At the beginning of 1970, unions active in Canada reported a total membership of 2,173,000, an increase of 4.7 per cent over the 1969 total. Union members comprised 33.6 per cent of non-agricultural paid workers in Canada and 27.2 per cent of the total labour force.

More than 1,632,000 workers – about 75 per cent of the national total – were in unions affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress. Of this number, 1,111,000 belonged to unions also affiliated with the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organizations in the United States.

Some 207,000 workers – about 9.5 per cent of the total – were in organizations affiliated with the Confederation of National Trade Unions.

The balance, accounting for 15.3 per cent of the total, were in various unaffiliated and independent national and international labour organizations.

GROWTH IN PUBLIC SERVICE

In the past five years, the number of union members has grown by a third. About half this increase can be attributed to growth in the public service sector, where collective bargaining to determine pay and conditions of employment has become more prevalent.

Growth in this sector has been reflected in an increasing share of total union membership held by national and regional unions and a corresponding decline in the proportion represented by the membership of international unions. In 1965, national and regional unions comprised 24.5 per cent of the total; by 1970, the comparable figure was 34.6 per cent.

In the same period, the percentage represented by international unions fell from 70.8 to 62.5; the remaining 2.9 per cent was composed of members of independent local organizations and local unions chartered directly by the central labour congresses.

There were 19 unions reporting 30,000 or more members in 1970, 12 of these were international, and seven were national and regional unions.

NATIONAL PARKS RECORD YEAR

Canada's national and historic parks systems expanded at a far greater rate in 1970 than at any other time since their inception, according to Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in a year-end review of these activities of his Department.

Four new national parks were added to the system, as many as were established in the preceding 33 years – bringing to 24 the number of such parks between Newfoundland and Vancouver Island.

At the same time, the National and Historic

Parks Branch of Mr. Chrétien's Department added a further three historical areas to that system, so that there are now more than 50 historic parks across Canada, as well as some 600 designated historic sites.

FIRST FOR QUEBEC

The year was highlighted by the establishment of the first two national parks in Quebec: Forillon on the Gaspé Peninsula and La Mauricie in the St. Maurice valley just north of Trois Rivières. The other new park areas are coastal in nature: Long Beach on the west coast of Vancouver Island, with its Pacific marine life and cedar rain forests, and Gros Mome on the west coast of Newfoundland, with its deep inlets and mountains. An area near the east arm of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories has also been reserved as a possible future national park.

The National and Historic Parks Branch also initiated studies on areas suitable for Canada's first marine, or underwater, national park.

Public participation in park planning continued in 1970, with national, provincial, local associations and private citizens encouraged to express their views at special public hearings on development plans for specific parks. This program of direct public participation will continue.

NEW AND DEVELOPING AREAS

New national historic parks under negotiation ranged from l'Anse-aux-Meadows, the only known Viking settlement in North America, and Port-au-Choix, a 4,000-year-old burial ground, both of which are in Newfoundland, to Rocky Mountain House, and the historic Alberta foothills fur-trade post.

Development continued at many of the historic parks, the most notable being Fortress Louisbourg in Nova Scotia and Lower Fort Garry in Manitoba, as well as the Restigouche underwater archaeological program. The National and Historic Parks Branch also acquired further important historic buildings in Dawson City in the Yukon.

BELL RINGS UP THE SIX MILLIONTH

The six-millionth telephone served by Bell Canada, was installed in December.

Bell Canada, which operates in Ontario, Quebec and parts of Labrador and the North West Territories, serves two-thirds of Canada's more than nine million telephones.

Bell added the last million telephones considerably faster than the first. It took 65 years for the company to reach the one-million mark, while the increase from five to six million took only three years.

The company added some 260,000 telephones during the past 12 months. It had 2,100 phones in operation at the end of its first year of service, 90 years ago.