

International occupational health meeting

The tenth World Congress on the Prevention of Occupational Accidents and Diseases will be held in Ottawa-Hull, May 8-13.

The meeting, which will be held for the first time in North America, is being organized by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) with the co-operation of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) and the International Labour Office (ILO). Both ISSA and ILO have their headquarters in Geneva.

The congress is being held in Canada, according to CCOHS officials, in recognition of what Canada is accomplishing in the field of occupational health and safety. The CCOHS has contributed to occupational health and safety for Canadians primarily by gathering and disseminating information from Canada and abroad.

Governor General Edward Schreyer will act as patron for the event, which is expected to draw about 2 000 participants. The meeting brings together representatives of unions, industry, business, insurance companies and compensation institutions, governments, the medical and legal professions, national and international associations, and safety and health professions.

The theme of the congress is "New

Horizons in Occupational Health and Safety". Scientific and technical experts will discuss emerging health hazards, preventive engineering and improved protective equipment in the context of research and development for the 1980s. The meeting will also address the essentials of progressive policies and user-oriented services involving both workers and management.

Nine principal speakers chosen from Canada, Burundi, Czechoslovakia, Mexico, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, the Soviet Union and the United States will keynote the discussions in the plenary session. The Canadian speaker will be Ivan Head, president of the International Development Research Centre, a Canada-based organization active in developing countries in a wide range of projects including occupational health and safety.

Five of the industry-oriented sections of the ISSA will hold individual meetings during the congress. They will be concerned with agriculture, construction, mining, research and information.

Canada has taken an initiative by suggesting that for the first time there be an international meeting of safety professionals during the congress. During and following the congress, participants will visit a number of Canadian industrial and resource development sites.

Gold rush hits New Brunswick

Since word leaked out of a gold discovery last year in Cape Spencer, New Brunswick, between 400 and 500 claims have been staked in the area, reports the *Canadian Press*.

Richard Potter, director of mineral resources for the New Brunswick natural resources department, said most claims were filed by independent prospectors but some large companies, such as Noranda Mines Limited, have also become involved in the rush.

Potter said the initial claim was filed by Morton Gordon of Saint John, who discovered gold near Cape Spencer, on the Bay of Fundy about 30 kilometres east of Saint John.

After Gordon filed a report on his claim, required by the province, the results were open for public inspection and claims were quickly staked in the surrounding area, Potter said. He said gold deposits have been found along New Brunswick's Bay of Fundy coast and it is possible to pan gold along beaches near Saint John.

Emergency program supported

Canada is providing more than \$6.16 million to support emergency preparedness in the Caribbean and Latin America, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen has announced.

An amount of \$5.5 million will go to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in support of its 1983-1987 program of emergency preparedness in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Another \$666 000 will go to support activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) within the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project (PCDPPP). Funds will be provided through the international humanitarian assistance program of the Canadian International Development Agency.

Canada was the first country to support the first PAHO program to improve the capacity of disaster-prone countries to be self-supporting in terms of emergencies in March of 1977. Canada's initial four-year grant of \$457 000 created a considerable multiplier effect by generating support from other governments. The positive impact of the initial program has led to the commitment of further funds for a more extensive program.



The congress centre in Hull where the meeting will be held.