

## Measures to increase jobs

The federal government has introduced a number of measures as part of a \$50-million special program announced last December to minimize the impact and extent of lay-offs, to help laid-off workers find alternative private sector employment and to generate additional jobs in areas where they are most required.

Employment and Immigration Canada has announced increased funding for several job creation programs. The Canada community development project program and the Canada community services program will receive \$33.7 million to increase employment opportunities.

All regions will benefit from the additional funds and federal constituencies in which lay-offs have added substantially to the number of unemployed persons in the area have been given priority in the allocation of funds.

### Hiring restricted

In addition, Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has instructed Canada Employment Centres to refuse any further requests to hire foreign workers for the mining and construction sectors and some 20 sub-groups within the manufacturing sector.

Employment officials will continue to approve employer requests to hire foreign domestic workers and those foreign workers whose skills are not readily available in Canada and are necessary to create job opportunities for other Canadians, said Mr. Axworthy.

The federal government has also put in place arrangements for employees and workers to sign work-sharing agreements with the federal government.

### Work sharing

Under work sharing, employees faced with temporary lay-offs are retained by the employers. The available work is shared by employees in the work sharing unit who have agreed to work fewer days a week and receive unemployment insurance benefits for the time not worked. Under the current work-sharing program up to \$10 million in insurance benefits will be authorized.

Other measures included in the special program announced in December by Mr. Axworthy are special job placement services, faster and more efficient job information and extensions to the Portable Wage Subsidy.

## Petro-Canada to use new process

Petro-Canada will build a \$100-million heavy oil upgrader at its Montreal refinery.

The Crown oil company acquired the refinery last year as part of its \$1.46-billion takeover of Petrofina Canada Incorporated of Montreal.

The upgrader will be built in partnership with Partec Lavalin Incorporated, which specializes in petroleum and petrochemical projects.

The 5,000-barrel-a-day upgrader, to be completed by mid-1984, represents Petro-Canada's largest new investment to date in Quebec.

It will use the new "Canmet" hydrocracking process developed by researchers at the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Petro-Canada has been given rights for world-wide marketing of the Canmet process and said it has already generated interest in its potential from oil refiners in a number of countries.

## Trade Minister visits Brazil



Canadian Minister of Trade Ed Lumley (left) meets with Brazilian Minister of Communications Haroldo Correa de Mattos (right) during a recent three-day visit to Brazil. Mr. Lumley, who led a trade mission to the country at the invitation of Brazilian Minister of Commerce and Industry João Camillo Penna, met with a number of ministers to discuss several industrial projects including a Canadian communications satellite system and construction of a methanol plant, a coal plant and a hydroelectric plant.

## Scientists plan Arctic research

Scientists in record numbers are preparing expeditions to the High Arctic Islands this summer to study everything from the thickness of glaciers to the clack of the walrus, reports John Goddard of the *Canadian Press*.

George Hobson, director of the federal Polar Continental Shelf Project, said he expects to give logistic support to more than 800 scientists next year — flying them and their supplies to sites thinly spread over one of the world's most inhospitable regions.

The scientists' purpose, directly or indirectly, will be to help the government set regulations on the extent and pace of exploitation of the Arctic's resources.

Engineers have developed the expertise and corporate conglomerates are raising the capital needed for gas liquefaction plants, ice-breaking tankers and pipelines extending way beyond the Arctic Circle.

### Environmental effects unknown

As yet unknown are the effects of such activity on the walrus, the beluga whale, the ocean bed, the climate or the Inuit. Scientists proposing studies along the icy shipping route through the islands have the best chance of obtaining approval for their application.

Last year 166 projects involving more than 700 scientists, were approved and more are expected to get approval this year. Ongoing projects are certain of support.

One is T.G. Smith's study of walruses and seals. Smith's group last year recorded walruses clacking and seals barking, finding that seals of the eastern Arctic bark differently from those of the western Arctic: "They seem to have different dialects."

A group from Energy, Mines and Resources plans to alight on five major glaciers to measure their depth and help determine whether ice is accumulating, perhaps solving the ongoing argument as to whether the world is due for another ice age. The Polar Continental Shelf Project is a semi-autonomous branch of Energy, Mines and Resources that has aided scientists since 1958.

The program has evolved from one of academic pursuit and of strengthening Canada's sovereignty claim to one of vital research that could mean the difference between exploiting the Arctic responsibly or damaging vast stretches of the environmentally sensitive region.