

in origin, and seldom have we taken ourselves too seriously. We are identifiable because of our moderation and our affability, our tolerance of others and our acceptance of change. We believe that our social institutions are of our choosing and for our benefit; we prefer, in this country, to lead lives in which courtesy and good humour and common sense are still regarded as desirable attributes.

Canadians have much for which to be grateful and much about which to be excited. It is well, on this July 1, to look at the world about us and at Canada's good fortune.

INFORMATION TEAMS TO ARCTIC

Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, recently announced that an information team would visit Eastern Arctic communities during July as part of a long-range project to improve communications with northern residents.

The present plans call for other information groups to visit the Baffin area before the end of summer and the Central and Western Arctic later in the year.

Mr. Chrétien stated that the purpose of the visits was to set up a mechanism for establishing a more effective exchange of information.

The first team began a two-week tour of the Keewatin area on July 5. It is headed by Frank McCall, Regional Director of Northern Resources for the Department in Yellowknife, and includes a representative of the Northwest Territories government, a geologist, a water, lands and forest development and conservation specialist, and an Eskimo interpreter. Communities to be visited include Eskimo Point, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Repulse Bay, Baker Lake and possibly Whale Cove, if airstrip landing and take-off conditions permit.

REASON FOR THE PROGRAM

The need for improved communications has been made necessary by the increasing pace of oil, gas and mineral exploration in the North, often carried out without residents of the exploration areas being informed in advance, or being told about measures the exploration people are required by government to take to ensure that there is minimum disruption of the environment.

"I am concerned that we should have a deeper understanding of the needs of northern residents and gain a closer insight into their fears that exploration will interfere unduly with their way of life, including hunting, trapping and fishing activities," says Mr. Chrétien. "I am equally concerned that northern residents should be fully informed about what oil, gas and mineral exploration involves and the steps my Department is taking to ensure that development of northern resources proceeds in a controlled and orderly fashion."

"In the absence of a free, two-way flow of information," the Minister added, "this kind of mutual understanding is impossible to achieve. This is why we are sending information teams into the northern communities. Members of the teams will talk to the people in the various places visited about resource-development activities in the North, but what is perhaps even more important, they will also listen carefully to what the northern residents themselves have to say."

STAMP HONOURS TRANSPORTATION

Canada's new 7-cent postage stamp, based on a "Communications and Transportation" design originally used on November 1, 1968, will extend a series that dates back to February 1967.

This stamp, which was issued on June 30, in a format similar to other values illustrating the five major economic regions of Canada, pays tribute to the importance of transportation and communications in linking the extremities of this vast country. The microwave tower, part of a coast-to-coast system supplementing land-line and cable connections, stands for communications. Transportation is illustrated by a variety of land, air and water vehicles.



TRANSPORTATION FACTS

Extraordinary transportation statistics become commonplace in a land approximately 5,000 by 3,000 miles. Canada's vital transport needs in the commercial development of nearly 22 million population are served by an estimated 60,000 miles of railway tracks, more mileage *per capita* than any other country in the world. Over 500,000 miles of highways and streets, mostly surfaced, are available for some 8.5 million registered motor-vehicles. "Main Street, Canada", a dream for decades, became a reality in 1962 with the completion of the Trans-Canada Highway. This \$1-billion project, co-ordinated by an act of Parliament passed in 1949, stretches more than 4,800 miles from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, British Columbia.

RAILWAY FIRST

Herculean engineering feats in the construction of the Trans-Canada Highway recall epic achievements