

## D. RESOURCES ACTIVITY

Projecting to the end of 1984, \$32 million will likely have been spent on various phases of mineral exploration in the N.W.T. By area: Cordillera \$2.4 million; Arctic Islands \$3.8 million; Keewatin \$6 million; South East Mackenzie (including Pine Point) \$6.8 million; Slave structural province \$12.5 million and Bear province \$1.1 million.

The gradual shift continued from uranium exploration, concentrated in the Bear and Churchill structural provinces (Hornby Basin, Dismal Lakes, Coppermine and Nonacho-Thelon-Baker Lake areas), to gold exploration concentrated around Cullaton Lake and in the Slave structural province, north of Yellowknife. This is reflected in large expenditures in the Slave province, where many large and small companies are active.

The mineral economy of the N.W.T. recovered well in 1984 from problems experienced a year earlier. Higher zinc prices and better performance at the three newest gold mines, Lupin, Salmita and Cullaton Lake should keep territorial mineral production values at a high level.

To September, 1984, 320 mineral claims covering 190,000 hectares in the N.W.T. were recorded. A total of 37,100 mineral claims covering an area of 2,750,000 hectares remained in good standing at the end of 1984.

During 1984, Esso Resources continued their expansion of the Norman Wells oil field. A total of 55 wells were drilled up to September 18, 1984, with a projected additional 12 wells to be drilled by the end of 1984, for a year's total of 67 wells.

The four man-made islands in the Mackenzie River, which were constructed during 1983, successfully withstood the river ice break-up during May. Drilling of the wells located on these islands was finished in early summer, and work is well underway on installing the necessary down-hole and surface equipment needed to complete the wells as oil producers and water injectors. The final two artificial islands, of a total of six, were built in the summer.

All of the field gathering pipelines were completed at the project in 1984. Construction of the central processing facility, which includes a 4,767 m<sup>3</sup>/day crude oil processing unit, a 6,356 m<sup>3</sup>/day water processing and injection plant, and a 15 MW power plant, was finished in September. The power generation and water injection portions of the plant have been put into service to inject water into the Kee Scarp oil reservoir for secondary oil recovery.