

representatives from interested countries, in Hamburg, Germany in October.

In the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where Canada is the sole participant in sealing, the 1968 season will open on March 18 (compared to March 7 in 1967) and will close, as last season, on April 25.

Shortening of the season for the "Front" is intended to reduce harvesting pressure on the stocks of both young and old seals which, according to scientific evidence, have previously been over-cropped. The delayed opening in the Gulf will bring that season into conformity with the altered seal-hunting season for the "Front".

CMHC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Mr. John R. Nicholson, the Minister responsible to Parliament for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, has announced that CMHC will grant \$578,000 in support of approximately 130 fellowships next year. "The provision for fellowships to support research and training aimed at improving the urban environment recognizes the challenge of planning and building our future cities," the Minister said.

Ninety new fellowships will be offered for graduate students seeking master's and doctoral degrees in various spheres of urban affairs, including community planning, urban design and housing. The fellowships are primarily for study in Canadian universities, though a limited number will be reserved for Canadians who wish to study in universities outside Canada. The amount of each award will be \$3,000 for those working towards a master's degree, and \$4,000 for those seeking a doctorate. In each case, university tuition fees will be paid and a supplementary sum of \$1,000 will be available for those having at least one dependent child. Arrangements are provided for the renewal of current CMHC fellowships.

NORTHERN EXPLORATION EASIER

Four significant changes in regulations governing the conditions and eligibility clauses of the Northern Mineral Exploration Programme were announced recently by Northern Development Minister Arthur Laing.

The amendments to the regulations are designed to broaden the applicability of this northern development incentive programme under which up to 40 per cent of the cost of a mineral exploration programme approved by the Federal Government, can be provided by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in either the Yukon or Northwest Territories.

Changed is the stipulation that, to be eligible for assistance, a public Canadian company must have its common shares listed on a Canadian stock-exchange. Eligibility has been extended to public corporations whose common shares are not listed on a Canadian stock-exchange but are offered for sale to Canadians through Canadian securities dealers.

A requirement deleted from the amended regulations is that mining claims on which exploratory work is undertaken by a successful applicant be surrendered to the Crown if the programme is halted before completion because of unencouraging results.

Also eliminated from the regulations is a requirement making drilling mandatory in an exploration programme before it can qualify for assistance, and the requirement that applicants own outright or undertake by option or exercisable lease to commit themselves to purchase the property on which an assisted exploration programme will be conducted.

BISON SALE TO PRIVATE FARM

Twenty-five buffalo recently delivered from Elk Island National Park, Alberta, to a farm at Ormstown, Quebec, are flourishing in their new environment. The herd of 22 cows and three bulls was the first sale of bison to a private firm since the National Parks Service took over the management of the dwindling herds in 1908.

The animals, each weighing between 1,200 and 1,800 pounds, were purchased by Clearbrook Game Farms, Quebec, for \$410 each. National Parks officials report that 16 of the 22 cows are now in calf.

Clearbrook's immediate aim is to breed a sizable herd for conservation. This will probably take from between five to eight years.

SMOKING DEATHS INCREASE

Death rates for lung diseases most closely associated with the inhalation of cigarette smoke continue their alarming increase in Canada, National Health and Welfare Minister Allan J. MacEachen, said recently. Data provided to his Department by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shows that more than 5,400 deaths were due to lung cancer, chronic bronchitis and emphysema in 1966 — an increase of 400 over the number for the previous year. Lung cancer, now the leading cause of death from cancer in Canada, took the lives of 3,296 men and 548 women. Emphysema, with and without chronic bronchitis, caused the deaths of 1,392 men and 207 women.

The annual number of deaths for each 100,000 persons from lung cancer more than doubled among men and almost doubled among women in the 16 years between 1950 and 1966.

The number of deaths annually for each 100,000 persons from chronic bronchitis and emphysema has increased seven times among men and five times among women in the same period. The rapidity with which bronchitis and emphysema are increasing may be partly due to a growing awareness of these diseases among physicians.

"My Department will continue to do everything possible to encourage non-smoking or less hazardous ways to smoke," Mr. MacEachen said. "I am confident that, with substantial changes in personal smoking habits, and the assistance of the tobacco industry, the trends shown in the above death rates