

Official languages program changes

The official languages program in the federal Public Service is being modified to improve the quality of services to Canadians, Treasury Board President Donald Johnston has announced.

Mr. Johnston outlined a number of changes designed to improve the ability of the federal government to provide services to Canadians in their official language of choice and to increase opportunities for employees of the Public Service to work in their first official language.

In certain areas of the country, departments will be required to provide services, on a mandatory basis, in both official languages. In other areas, bilingual services will be upgraded and expanded to meet community needs. There will also be more emphasis on informing the public of available bilingual services.

Within the Public Service, senior managers and supervisors are to play a stronger leadership role in the program. Effective December 31, 1982, all candidates being appointed to executive positions in bilingual regions will have to possess a sound knowledge of their second official language. When supervisory positions are being staffed in bilingual areas, proficiency levels are to be raised unless the department can demonstrate the position requires a very elementary use of the second official language. Mr. Johnston said that these changes represent a business-like approach to managing the official languages program in federal institutions.

Canadian aid to Zimbabwe

Canada is providing loans totalling \$21 million to Zimbabwe for the purchase of Canadian goods, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced.

Of this total, \$6 million is to be provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for the purchase of five locomotives and related spare parts from General Motors (Canada). Other financing will permit the National Railways of Zimbabwe to purchase an additional 20 Canadian locomotives and spare parts. The Canadian locomotives will be delivered during the first half of 1982.

CIDA will also provide a \$15-million development line of credit to Zimbabwe

for the purchase of Canadian commodities such as road equipment, fertilizer, veterinary drugs and irrigation equipment. Under the terms of the line of credit, the Canadian goods are to be purchased over the next four years.

The loans fulfil part of Canada's pledge to provide at least \$10 million in aid every year for the next five years to Zimbabwe. Canada's future aid to the newly-independent country will concentrate on reconstruction and rural development, agriculture, transportation, mineral development, technical assistance and training.

Canada's assistance to Zimbabwe — formerly called Rhodesia — began when it attained independence from Britain in April 1980. So far, Canada has already provided a \$3-million cash grant for reconstruction, \$2 million for food aid, funds for technical studies, scholarships for refugees and \$750,000 towards health and community development projects being carried out by non-governmental organizations such as the YMCA, United Church of Canada, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Lutheran World Relief, Inter-Church Fund for International Development and the Canadian Labour Congress.

Earth scientist wins award

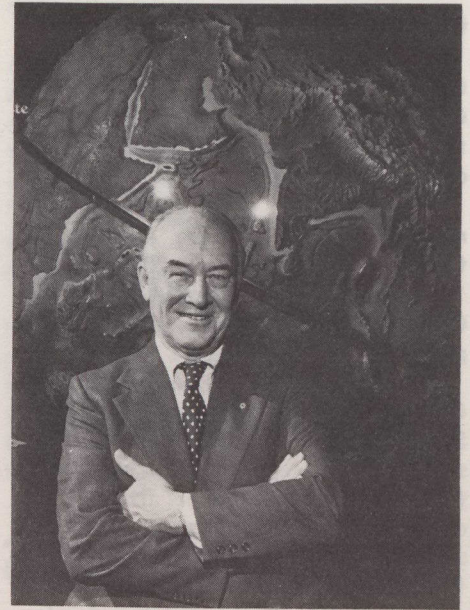
John Tuzo Wilson of Toronto, outstanding Canadian earth scientist, author, educator and explorer, has been awarded the 1981 A.G. Huntsman Award for excellence in marine science by the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO).

The award, presented to Dr. Wilson at a ceremonial dinner in Halifax, is supported by Canadian industry, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Established in 1980, the award is presented annually in one of three divisions of marine science — biological, physical/chemical and marine geoscience. It honours top marine scientists who are not only respected as scientists but who have an influence on the future of oceanography. It recognizes excellence in research, outstanding contributions to science and influence on the course of marine scientific thought.

Leader in the field

For over 30 years J. Tuzo Wilson has been the leader in the field of global synthesis of geological data and theory, first through his study of island arcs and earth-



John Tuzo Wilson

quake belts and recently as one of the founders of the modern formulation of the theory of continental drift.

J. Tuzo Wilson was born in Ottawa in 1908 and educated at the universities of Toronto, Cambridge and Princeton. After serving in the Canadian Armed Forces in the Second World War, he spent the bulk of his scientific career as a professor of geophysics at the University of Toronto (1946-1974). Dr. Wilson is currently the director general of the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto.

During his productive career (six books and hundreds of scientific articles) he has been the recipient of several honorary degrees, scientific awards and medals. Among the latter are the Vetlesen Prize and Wollastone Medal in 1978, and the Maurice Ewing Award, 1980. He has been president of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics and is currently the president of the American Geophysical Union.

Dollar to honour centenary

The Royal Canadian Mint will strike a 1982 silver dollar to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the city of Regina, the federal government has announced.

The dollar will depict a bison's skull with the Saskatchewan legislative building in the background on one side and an effigy of the Queen on the other, a statement from the Royal Canadian Mint said.

The Mint commemorates a major historical event or theme each year.