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## Asia-Canada management seminar for women

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) will host a study seminar on women and management in Vancouver, British Columbia, June 22-26, with business and professional women from the Pacific Rim countries.

The CFUW-Asia-Canada Women and Management Seminar will bring together Canadian and Asian women to exchange views and ideas on their mutual concerns and problems in the areas of business, management and entrepreneurship.

"The emphasis of the seminar will be on the challenges and opportunities of micro-technology, new linkages and networks, project twinning, co-operative business

ventures, and women's organizational and managerial strengths," said Member of Parliament Mary Collins, who will be taking part in the conference. "It will also serve as a useful pilot project for possible subsequent activities on women and management involving women in other parts of Canada and in the Third World," she added.

Delegates will attend from 12 Asian countries — China, Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Fiji, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand and Malaysia. They are expected to return to their countries with plans of action to twin local business or professional institutions with such institutions in Canada, develop joint ventures or licensing

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## Energy deal with western provinces

The federal government and the energy-producing provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia have reached a comprehensive oil and natural gas agreement, The Western Accord, that calls for the total deregulation of Canadian crude oil pricing and marketing, takes steps to make the natural gas industry more market-oriented, and eliminates a number of federal oil and gas taxes or charges, including the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax (PGRT), the Petroleum Compensation Charge, and the Canadian Ownership Special Charge.

Federal Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Pat Carney, who reached the agreement with her western counterparts in Vancouver at the end of March, said "the end to controversial energy taxes, and deregulation beginning June 1, 1985, will produce jobs and economic growth throughout the country".

A key element of the accord will be the deregulation of crude oil prices, which will allow consumers to take advantage of decreasing oil prices. These oil prices were frozen at a high level under the old administered pricing system.

A second element of the accord is the phasing out of the PGRT on existing production and its elimination from new production and projects. "This will mean large-scale reinvestment in Canada," said Miss Carney. "And under the terms of the Western Accord, the federal government and those of the pro-

ducing provinces expect such reinvestment to occur. To ensure that it does, we will be monitoring industry performance very carefully," she added.

Another important tax measure in the agreement will permit companies in a non-profit position to compete more equally with the multinational corporations. They will be allowed to offset unused new exploration and development expenditures against the PGRT. In addition, the existing \$500 000 small producers' credit will be supplemented by the introduction of an exemption for individuals of \$10 000 of resource income from the PGRT.

Miss Carney said that Canadian consumers will be protected from the volatility of the international markets. If world prices escalate rapidly, or if security of supply is threatened, the federal government, in consultation with the producing provinces, would take appropriate measures to protect Canadian interests.

For consumers, the minister said the Western Accord maintains natural gas prices at their present level pending the introduction of a new domestic gas pricing regime which will be in place by next November. A joint task force of government representatives will be appointed to work with industry and consumers to finalize the new pricing system.

Miss Carney also said the Petroleum Incentives Program, which provides cash incentives to petroleum companies exploring for oil and gas, will be phased out by next year. The government of Canada will consult with the maritime provinces and territorial governments on appropriate royalty incentives to help spur frontier petroleum investment.



Pat Carney

arrangements with Canadian businesswomen, or work out marketing strategies for women's products from the Third World.

Support for the seminar is being provided under the Canadian International Development Agency's Institutional Co-operation and Development Services (ICDS) program.

The ICDS division promotes grassroots co-operation between institutions, professional societies, co-operatives, unions or other organizations and similar groups in developing countries. They are currently engaged in development assistance programs with related organizations in 82 different countries.

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## Road information in Manitoba

The Department of Highways and Transportation in Manitoba has installed a pilot videotex information program, the first of its kind in Canada, to provide easier access to comprehensive and accurate information about road conditions in the province.

The program, which is part of the Manitoba Telidon Project, is a series of pilot projects designed to test the cost-effectiveness, economic benefits and service delivery of integrating videotex into the public information delivery systems of the provincial government.

Financing for the pilot project was shared by the federal Department of Supply and Services and the Manitoba Departments of Industry, Trade and Technology and of Highways and Transportation.

Highway and Transportation Minister John Plohman said the program "will provide Manitobans with easier access to up-to-date, accurate information about road conditions throughout the province more quickly and will ultimately contribute towards safer drivers and safer highways".

Videotex, based on the Canadian-developed Telidon system, is a two-way communication system for computer-generated graphic and textual information. The software for the road information program was developed by Infomart.

The videotex terminals were installed in the Department of Highways and Transportation's Road Information Office in Winnipeg as well as its Carman, Portage la Prairie, Brandon and Dauphin offices.

The department's district offices supply road condition information by telephone to the Winnipeg office and this information is entered into the central videotex terminal. The offices receive about 250 enquiries from the public daily during good weather and as many as 900 calls a day during inclement weather.