

population, and second largest in terms of area. It holds a central position in Canada, between the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia in the West, and Quebec, Newfoundland and the Maritime Provinces on the east coast. Ontario has traditionally been the industrial heartland of the country and it accounts for about 80% of Canada's exports of fully manufactured products. Perhaps less well-known are its rich agricultural production, and its huge forest, water and mineral resources.

The Province of Ontario has entered the 1980's with a diversified, resilient and productive economy. With 36% of the population and 39% of the Gross National Product, per capita income is some 7% above the national average. Employment and production in the Ontario economy are spread solidly across all sectors. Nevertheless, the Province has felt the pinch of the energy crisis, the general economic slowdown and some dramatic shifts in Canada's labour force, and has responded by setting out a long term strategy for co-ordinating and consolidating the government's economic development efforts. Some of the major goals of this strategy are set out below.

ELECTRICITY. The Ontario Government is preparing for a major transition to electrical and nuclear power in this decade. Electricity will be used wherever practical, in the place of oil. This will favour an indigenous source of power, support national efforts for oil-substitution and keep Ontario in the forefront of electrical power technology.

TRANSPORTATION. Ontario intends to promote vigorously the development and adoption of transportation systems which conserve energy, reduce oil consumption, and build on the demonstrated effectiveness of its transportation technology. One of its major achievements in recent years has been the development of an Intermediate Capacity Transit System to provide an economical alternative to underground rail systems. Ontario will also support de Havilland's DASH 7 programme by upgrading a number of municipal airport facilities to accomodate short take-off and landing services.

RESOURCES. The Province will continue to develop and regenerate its natural resources and to invest in the agricultural, mineral and forest industries. In the agricultural sector the Government plans to stimulate investment in food processing and food storage facilities, and to upgrade over 400,000 hectares of farmland through land clearing and selective drainage programmes. The forest industry will benefit from a comprehensive programme of forest generation, and the large-scale planting of hybrid poplars for use in bio-mass research and energy use.

TECHNOLOGY. With a view to maintaining its international competitiveness, Ontario will place high priority on research and development and nurturing its high-technology industry. Specifically, the Government has decided to accept equity risk positions in new high technology enterprises, in the expectation that these ventures will in time become commercially successful and self-financing. Government-supported centres are also being established to promote research and development in auto parts technology, microelectronics, computers and robotics, biotechnology and toxicology.

The Province of Ontario recognizes that its continued economic