

programs for the benefit of all Canadians, particularly in fields that bear on the responsibilities of both levels of government.

Federal-provincial meetings at the ministerial level are also projected on a range of urgent matters, including:

- financial and economic policy
- the Report of the Economic Council of Canada
- health care programs
- post-secondary education
- housing
- restrictions upon foreign ownership of land
- income security
- industrial policy.

The Government will propose to the Governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba that they join with it in the convening of a conference on western economic opportunities. Such a conference would be a unique venture in the history of federal-provincial relations in Canada. It could be jointly planned, and held in the West in the course of the summer. Its purpose would be to explore potentials for economic and social development and, specifically, to consider concrete programs for stimulating and broadening the economic and industrial base of western Canada.

Among such concrete programs, the Government would propose for discussion the possible establishment of new regionally-based financial institutions better able to serve the financing needs of business enterprise and industrial development in western Canada.

A second suggestion for joint study would be improvement in the total transportation system, so basic to overcoming the problems of distance: in the region, from other parts of Canada and from ocean ports. The development needs of the northern frontier areas in all four Provinces could also be explored.

The Government recognizes that western Canadians wish to build industrial strength on top of their region's great resource and energy base. As the whole economy continues to grow a greater measure of decentralization of industrial activity will be necessary to achieve this desired regional objective.

The Government believes these and other issues would rank high on an agenda for western development. It would seek as well views and suggestions with regard to the continuing mechanisms for federal-provincial consultations on policies for western expansion, within an overall framework of national growth.

The Government intends to widen the area of service to Canada open to personnel in the Canadian Armed Forces. In addition to maintaining a high degree of military capability as the primary and most essential role of the Forces, new emphasis will be placed on the many areas in which the varied skills and training of this large number of dedicated Canadians can contribute to the achievement of national goals.

You will be asked to amend the Public Service Staff Relations Act and the Public Service Employment Act.

Parliament will be asked to confirm the basic principles of the Government's program for bilingualism in the Public Service.

The Government will continue to work in furtherance of the objectives of the Official Languages Act. Further assistance will be offered to the Provinces to help ensure that to the extent possible:

- Canadians can educate their children in the official language of their choice
- Canadian students can learn, as a second language, the other official language
- Provincial governments can develop an increased capacity to serve their citizens in both official languages, as may be required.

The Government will continue to encourage through its multicultural policy the development of a society in which individuals and groups can develop and express their own cultural identity. An Advisory Council to the Minister of State responsible for multiculturalism will be established.

Measures will be introduced directed at reform of the penal and parole systems to improve prisoner rehabilitation and the protection of the public.

The five-year trial period in which imposition of the death penalty has been limited to cases involving the killing of policemen and prison guards has come to an end. You will be asked to decide, by a free vote and as a matter of urgency, upon the future of the death penalty in the Canadian law enforcement system.

Proposals dealing with conflicts of interest as they may affect Members of Parliament, Ministers of the Crown and Public Servants will be laid before you.

You will be asked to consider an Election Expenses Bill.

The Government will recommend to the House of Commons the broadcasting, by radio and television, of all or a part of its proceedings and the proceedings of its Committees.

You will be asked to consider other legislative proposals.

Members of the House of Commons,

The Government intends to present a budget early in the session. It is timely to provide to Parliament a full report on Canada's financial and economic situation, and to propose fiscal and other measures for the effective management of the economy.

You will be asked to appropriate the funds required to carry on the services and expenditures authorized by Parliament.

Honourable Members of the Senate,

Members of the House of Commons,

May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.