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Canada prepares for Habitat, UN Conference on Human Settlements

Barney Danson, newly appointed Minister of State for Urban Affairs, announced on September 24 the creation of a national committee to coordinate Canadian public participation in Habitat, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which will be held in Vancouver in June 1976.

Announcement was made during a news conference in Ottawa to welcome Enrique Peñalosa, United Nations Secretary-General for Habitat, making his first official visit to Canada.

Heading the Canadian national committee is Senator Sidney L. Buckwold, a former Mayor of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Dr. Hugh Keenleyside, of Victoria, British Columbia, is honorary chairman.

The committee will advise the Minister in the development of a Canadian position on human settlements for presentation at the Vancouver conference and to stimulate Canadian awareness of human settlements problems.

As host country, Canada will welcome more than 5,000 delegates, observers, other participants, and media representatives to Vancouver in June 1976.

Goal of Habitat, which grew out of the Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, in 1972, is to encourage governments to focus on the questions of human settlement and on actions to deal with them. It will be the largest and most significant United Nations conference ever held in this country.

Reason for conference

World population is expected to reach 6.5 billion within the next three decades. This growth will bring problems in many areas, but the problems in human settlements will be compounded by the rapid urbanization which is occurring in all nations. The effect on urban areas will be almost explosive, and governments must plan now if they are to cope successfully with the physical and social problems which will arise. There is general agreement that nations should share their experiences as they seek solutions.

To carry out the host responsibilities of the Government of Canada, a host secretariat has been established within the Department of External Affairs. Executive responsibility for the national hosting arrangements rests with this secretariat, which has a management organization covering installations, communications, conference services, design development and public affairs.

Canada's own participation in Habitat is being organized by a secretariat established in the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs. Officials of that Ministry will be holding discussions with Mr. Peñalosa on the planning for Canada's contribution to the substance of the conference. In Vancouver, Mr. Peñalosa met with members of the host committee, including representatives of the British Columbia Government and the City of Vancouver, and he visited the proposed site of Habitat.

Address by Habitat Secretary-General
At a lunch given in his honour in Ottawa on September 24, Habitat Secretary-General Enrique Peñalosa said that Canada was "setting a magnificent example" as host country to the Vancouver conference and as a participating government. He said he would like to have a copy of a National Film Board film on the evolution of the Canadian program "to show other governments how you, as host country, see your role".

Passages from Mr. Peñalosa's address follow:

"...We must accept that the human race is in a stage of jarring transition. We are rushing toward the day when nearly all our species will live in a previously unknown state of compaction. And we must very quickly devise physical, social and environmental responses to that condition.

"This will be the central issue, the backdrop to all themes and subjects that we will take up at Vancouver. This is the other face to the problem of population, and the two together are the fundamental challenge in the world today.

"And I would like to point out that Habitat is integrally tied to both Bucharest and the environment conference in Stockholm. It was there, under the leadership of a great Canadian, Maurice Strong, that the interrelationship between environment and human settlements was recognized and the groundwork laid for Vancouver. And here in this room I would like to convey my thanks to Mr. Strong for the tremendous help he has given us in all the preparatory work that has brought us to where we are today.

* * * *

"If world population is to double in the next 30 years, as was seen at the Bucharest conference to be almost inevitable, then we must exponentially increase all else: the number of housing units; schoolrooms, hospital beds, transport lines and every other necessity of the modern community.

"But only to double our facilities will not be enough. Hundreds of millions of people live today in literally subhuman conditions. If we do no more than double the present infrastructure, we will simply compound the degree of human misery.

"If mankind seriously pledges to create minimum conditions and standards for all, then we are entering the greatest era of physical construction in all history, a time without any precedent. Yet that is what we must pledge and must achieve.

Start needed now

"The Conference on Human Settlements can and should be a new start, and we must begin now. The pre-conference period is absolutely vital to our hopes of success. Through committees such as yours in each country, we must begin the study of our best techniques, the awakening of public awareness, and the process of debate over what we really want and what must be done to achieve our goals.

"At Vancouver, we will be coming together for a global exchange of ideas, techniques and systems for solving specific problems. Our demonstration projects, if they are well chosen, will be the pilot models for the future. And in the years that follow they must be duplicated a hundred and thousand-fold around the world.

"The material and physical aspects of human settlements at the conference



Enrique Peñalosa

will be very important. It is these that will show graphically what can be achieved. But even more important at Vancouver will be the economic, social and political considerations. Ideas must come before bricks. Social structures must change.

"Above all we must come together prepared to adopt new priorities, prepared to change our past ideas, prepared to cast off obsolete institutions, and prepared to discuss rationally the options, the trade-offs, the sacrifices that may be required to preserve our civilization.

"This is not an idle dream. This is what the world's peoples are asking and even waiting for. Habitat must touch on every aspect of our community life as we know it today and as we expect it in the very near future — not only in major cities but also in relation to the smallest rural villages; not only in terms of housing, but adequate provision of all community services, facilities and cultural needs; not only technology, but the marshaling of the political and social will to take action; and, finally, not just what we need, but what we want.

Not a doomsday conference

"Above all we must think and talk in terms of solutions rather than problems. Habitat must not be a doomsday conference. We must bring to all people a message of hope. We must show governments that the decay of the urban environment is reversible, that they can meet the future needs of their peoples. Delegations must go home from Vancouver with new ideas and practical

plans, eager to apply what they have seen and learned.

"Vancouver, although it is our immediate goal, must not be the end but a new beginning. In the next 20 months we must awaken a sense of urgency and anticipation. At the conference we must create a consensus on the need for action. After the conference, we must begin the implementation of new programs.

* * * *

"Each country, regardless of its wealth, geographic location or social system, should come to Vancouver to teach and to learn. Each country will benefit in proportion to its own commitment and interest. But implementation of the ideas and solutions developed at the conference will be entirely in national hands.

"Obviously we do not intend to discourage international aid to countries for their settlement improvements. The opposite is true. We hope that the very definition and acceptance of human settlement policy as a central and explicit government concern will be followed by a similar rethinking and reappraisal by intergovernmental and international organizations of all kinds, especially the banking institutions.

* * * *

"In all the development plans that I have seen or heard about, there are considerations for separate settlement factors such as housing or health. But what governments must do in the future is to have an over-all policy of human settlements taking all these aspects together. And this should be an integral part of national development planning.

"What I hope to see come out of Vancouver, and what I am certain was envisaged by the General Assembly of the United Nations when this conference was first conceived, can be summarized in three simple points:

(1) To elicit from every nation a pledge to improve the quality of life in all its human settlements through a new recognition of need.

(2) To show every nation how it can attack its human settlement problems within the context of over-all development planning.

(3) To assure every nation willing to act that it can count on the cooperation and support of the international community...."

Canada/U.S. discuss tanker traffic

United States and Canadian officials met in Ottawa on August 29, to discuss the problems raised by the transport of Alaska oil by tanker to the U.S. West Coast.

The delegations discussed various concerns which fell within four subject areas:

(1) possible alternative means of supply to the refineries of the Pacific Northwest of the U.S.;

(2) co-operative research programs designed to achieve a better understanding of the physical and biological environment of the area;

(3) compensation procedures, including those under the TAPS legislation, for damages and clean-up costs;

(4) co-operative traffic-management systems to lessen the danger of oil spills occurring.

Examination of a number of technical aspects of these problems will continue between the agencies concerned, and both sides agreed to meet again, in Washington, early in November.

CN team to help reorganize rail management in E. Africa

Six officials of Canadian National have arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, to help manage the 3,600-mile East African Railway System. This is the latest project of Canac Consultants Ltd, the international consulting service of CN and Air Canada.

They will prepare recommendations for a management contract that includes reorganizing the railway's management structure.

The railway serves three independent nations in Africa — Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania — and links inland areas with the Indian ocean ports of Mombasa, Dar-es-Salaam and Tanga. It operates ferries and other vessels on lakes Victoria and Tanganyika and provides bus and road transport services over another 2,500 route miles in the East African community.

Since its incorporation three years ago, Canac has undertaken 30 projects in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and North and South America.

IDRC annual report highlights encouraging crop research results

Encouraging results from research carried out during the last three years on crops grown in the areas of the world most threatened by famine are described in the 1973-74 annual report of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), released on September 18.

The Centre, established in 1970 by the Canadian Parliament, almost doubled the size and scope of its operations in developing countries and Canada during this latest year. By March 1974 it was supporting 180 research projects which required a total \$28 million in Canadian funds; a year previously, 99 projects had been begun which involved a commitment of \$13.4 million.

The introduction to the report gives details of how the Centre has set out to make its work relevant to "some basic issues of world development that have been weighing most heavily on people's minds during this period: the twin problem of food production in developing countries to meet the needs of increasing populations".

Renaude Lapointe becomes Speaker of the Senate

After only two years and ten months as a senator, Renaude Lapointe has been appointed by the Prime Minister as Speaker of the Senate, succeeding Muriel McQueen Fergusson, who held the position since December 1972.

Miss Lapointe, who was a leading Quebec journalist, is the second woman in Canadian history to become Speaker of the Upper House.

From 1939 to 1959, Miss Lapointe was a reporter for *Le Soleil* of Quebec City. She was also correspondent for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, International Service and *Time* and *Life* magazines during 1953 to 1957. In 1959 she joined the reporting staff of *La Presse* in Montreal and remained with that newspaper until 1970 except for a brief period in 1961-1962 with *le Nouveau Journal*, when she won a Bowater Prize in journalism for her articles on Msgr. Charbonneau, former Archbishop of Montreal. In 1965 she became the first woman to be appointed to the editorial Board of *La Presse*.

In 1970 Senator Lapointe joined the Department of Indian Affairs and

Northern Development. She was a member of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations in 1970, 1971 and 1972. In the Senate, she has served on the External Affairs Committee and the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.



Renaude Lapointe

Success of triticale

It says: "Particularly encouraging results have come from the research in Mexico and in Manitoba to develop triticale as a cereal crop in areas where wheat cannot thrive." Early problems of fertility and grain-shrivelling have been "largely overcome" in this man-made hybrid that is produced by crossing wheat and rye, and the most productive triticales are out-yielding the best wheat varieties at research stations in both countries, as well as proving superior to wheat in field trials in Ethiopia and East Africa.

Of crops that are staple foods for millions in the semi-arid tropics, sorghum and millet, the report says that a network of research has now been organized across Africa and Asia. At the same time, studies that have begun at Laval University, Quebec, and the University of Saskatchewan, into the resistance or tolerance of sorghum to drought stress "should prove of importance to the peoples of Africa who face the bleak prospect of recurring years of drought, for they desperately

Immigration procedures for Cypriots

Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras recently announced that urgent measures were being taken to expedite the movement to Canada from Cyprus of sponsored relatives or persons nominated by Canadian citizens or legal permanent residents of Canada. Immigration officers in Canada have been instructed to forward immediately all applications by Canadian residents to sponsor or nominate relatives in Cyprus. Some 100 applications are in various stages of processing.

These arrangements apply to relatives of Canadians of Cypriot origin, or relatives of Cypriots legally resident in Canada. Canada will work with the United Nations and with other countries to bring together, legally and humanely, separated families. These measures are designed to bring to Canada as quickly as possible those Cypriots who have been sponsored or nominated as immigrants by their relatives now living in this country.

Canada/Soviet Union hockey series tied in Canada

At September 30, the Canada and U.S.S.R. eight-game hockey series was tied, with Canada winning one, the Soviet Union one, and two games even.

The first game, played in Quebec City, resulted in a 3-3 tie, the second, in Toronto, gave Canada a 4-1 win. In Winnipeg the U.S.S.R. won 8-5 and the final game in Canada, played in Vancouver, ended with a score of 5-5.

The series continues in the Soviet Union with the fifth game slated for October 1.

Ottawa/Budapest student exchange

Ottawa's Carleton University and the Institute of Cultural Relations in Budapest, Hungary have agreed to an annual exchange of one or two faculty members for a period of up to five months and of two graduate students for a period of up to ten months. The sending party covers the cost of return transportation; the host country provides a monthly stipend, accommodations, and study facilities.

New road sign helps handicapped

Like the rest of us, the handicapped driver also suffers the unexpected and unforeseeable mishap and is not always able to attract attention by raising the hood of the car or by walking to obtain help.

For this reason, a special flag has been designed as shown in the accompanying photograph. A driver seeing the sign is asked to contact the nearest police detachment and send help — it is not necessary for the motorist to stop.

The flags are made for permanent use, of strong vinyl and have a built in hanger which hooks over the edge of the driver's window.



World civil aviation authority meets in Montreal

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is holding its twenty-first session of the Assembly of its member states in Montreal. The Assembly, from September 24 to October 16, includes delegations representing 129 member states of ICAO and various international organizations whose interests are related to civil aviation. (ICAO is recognized as the world's civil aviation authority responsible for international matters concerning safety and efficiency of air navigation, technological and economical development of international civil air transportation and legal matters in the international aviation field. The Organization is also the responsible agency for aviation technical assistance to the world's developing nations.)

The Assembly will elect the member states that will constitute the Organization's Council at ICAO's headquarters over the next three years, and will approve the Organization's budgets for 1975, 1976 and 1977. Among other important items, the Assembly will study: the role of civil aviation in the relation between technological advancement and the human environment; the economic situation of international civil air transportation; the development of new policies and activities related to air navigation; policies and activities of ICAO technical assistance provided under the United Nations Development Program; and financial assessments for

ICAO member states to defray the expenses of the Organization for the years 1975 to 1977. A number of other matters relating to the policies, function and activities are also scheduled for discussion.

ICAO was established in 1944 to assure the safe, orderly and economic development of world civil air transportation. Headquarters were established in Montreal in 1947. In addition to a new Montreal headquarters building, currently under construction, the Organization has regional offices in Bangkok, Cairo, Dakar, Lima, Mexico City and Paris.

August housing starts down

Housing starts during August were at a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 206,100 for all areas, according to preliminary figures released by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Actual starts during the month in the urban areas were 14,683, a decline of 25 per cent from 19,622 for the same month one year ago. Cumulative urban starts for 1974 reached 121,794, a drop of 9 per cent from the 134,261 starts in the comparative eight-month period last year.

The January-August total this year reflected an increase of 2 per cent in the volume of starts on single-detached dwellings and a decline of 17 per cent in multiple-housing activity.

Exotic imports from Europe

Since 1966, Agriculture Canada has been issuing import permits for European cattle – the exotic breeds, as they have come to be known collectively.

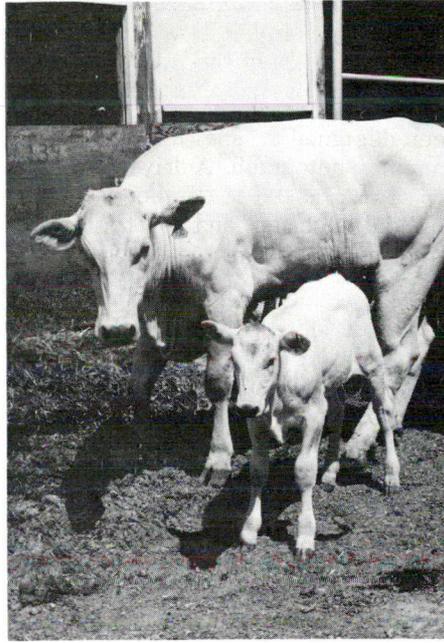
With names like Charolais, Simmental, Limousin, Chianina, Maine-Anjou, Gelbvieh and Pinzgauer, they are being brought into Canada to improve the quality of this country's beef industry.

Since the immigration program began, Canadians have imported 3,884 exotic cattle from Europe. The cattle can only come from countries where disease – mainly the dread foot-and-mouth disease – is not a problem and adequate control measures are in effect. Even then, the veterinarians of the Health of Animals Branch insist on testing the cattle in Europe before they are boarded onto ships bound for Canada.

A further battery of tests is run at Grosse Isle, just 30 miles down the St. Lawrence River from Quebec City, and at St. Pierre, a French-owned island off the southern coast of Newfoundland.

Canadian beef breeders believe the exotic strains of cattle have so much to offer in upgrading the national beef herd that there is strong competition for the limited space in the shipments.

The space is allocated under an import permit system. Import permits are required for the importation of animals from all countries except the United States.



Chianina cow and calf at Agriculture Canada's Research Station in Lethbridge, Alberta. Canadian cattle breeders have imported 3,884 head of exotic cattle since 1966.

workmen's compensation boards and auditing expenses, make up the balance.

The Minister said that a minimum of \$75,000 would go to each federal constituency "because even in seemingly affluent areas of employment there can be pockets of high unemployment".

"We examined the Statistics Canada estimates of labour force participation and unemployment for 41 economic regions in the country and for the constituencies within those regions. We did a similar study covering natives on reserves. We also made an independent estimate of clients registered for employment at our Canada Manpower Centres."

The Minister explained that funds were being distributed on the basis of the number of unemployed persons beyond a 4 percent base rate of unemployment, subject to a minimum allocation of \$75,000 in each constituency. "Having looked at the estimated unemployment totals," Mr. Andras said, "the entire amount available for LIP was distributed equitably throughout the country." The effect of this is to provide approximately \$262 per eligible unemployed person.

Projects are funded for periods of up to 26 weeks, with starting dates between December 1 and January 31. Some remote communities are permitted to begin projects earlier to meet local conditions.

Exotics and ultrasonics help beef industry

Dr. Warren Kitts, head of the Department of Animal Science at the University of British Columbia, is finishing up a project that compares the performance of a number of exotic breeds crossed with the traditional Hereford.

He is also studying the effective-

ness of predicting the grade of an animal while it is still alive, using ultrasonic equipment instead of guessing what stage of development the animal has reached before sending it to market. The ultrasonic measuring method is successful and may become a standard feature of feedlots.

Local initiative funds to assist the unemployed

Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras announced on September 20 that \$90 million had been allocated to the 1974-75 Local Initiatives Program to "meet the needs of unemployed persons in those parts of Canada where unemployment is most severe".

The formula for determining allocation of funds, Mr. Andras said, was based on "an exhaustive study" of all economic components.

"We were seeking to achieve a just

and equitable formula concentrating on areas of greatest need," the Minister added.

Newfoundland will receive \$7,409,000; Nova Scotia, \$3,924,000; Prince Edward Island, \$998,000; New Brunswick, \$4,724,000; Quebec, \$34,601,000; Ontario, \$13,806,000; Manitoba, \$1,797,000; Saskatchewan, \$1,636,000; Alberta, \$1,811,000; Northwest Territories, \$511,000; British Columbia, \$7,940,000; Yukon, \$285,000. Administrative costs, including payments to

Increase in old age pensions

The Old Age Security Pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement rises in October, the fourth quarterly escalation in 1974 based on the cost of living.

The basic Old Age Security pension as of this month is \$117.02, compared to the previous amount of \$112.95.

The maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement for a single person or a married person whose spouse is not a pensioner will go up to \$82.08 from \$79.23. Added to the basic Old Age Security pension, this will produce a monthly maximum total of \$199.10.

The maximum supplement for a married couple, both pensioners, increases to \$72.89 each, from \$70.36. Added to the basic pension, this will give each pensioner \$189.91 for a combined maximum payment of \$379.82.

Calgary professor at Educators for World Peace Congress

Dr. John Friesen, associate professor in the University of Calgary department of educational foundations, presented a paper at the International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP) Congress in Bucharest, Romania, July 29-August 2.

Dr. Friesen, National Chancellor of Canada for the IAEWP since 1970, presented a paper entitled "Toward a philosophy of world peace; the role of the individual".

Dr. Friesen believes that war is not essential to man's survival. Through education, world peace can be established by creating a society "that permits and encourages individual discovery, acceptance and development of unique and creative man", he says.

The IAEWP was founded in 1969 by a group of educators and others interested in the achievement of world peace through education. The theme of this first world congress was "education for international understanding".

The participants were educators and politicians from all parts of the world.

Eskimo art in New York

Twenty-one Eskimo graphics belonging to The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts have gone on display with works from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of the American Indian, both in New York, in an exhibition at The Queens Museum, Flushing, N.Y., from September 28 to November 3.

Formerly known as The Queens Country Art and Cultural Center, The Queens Museum, founded in 1972, has since presented 15 exhibitions.

The Eskimo show is made up essen-

tially of contemporary works.

The Montreal Museum has lent prints by such artists as Pitseolak, Pauta, Niviaksiak, Parr, and Kenojuk. Areas represented include Cape Dorset, Holman, Povungnituk, and Baker Lake; the Metropolitan has lent 21 carvings and the Museum of the American Indian, 27 artifacts, including a kayak; some 60 works have been loaned by private collectors.

Furniture mission to Europe

An 11-member technical mission sponsored by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, recently visited six European countries to discuss furniture industry policies and programs.

The mission members met with senior officials of government and the industry in the U.S.S.R., Sweden, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia and Britain. Mission members visited furniture manufacturing and display facilities to evaluate the results of the programs and policies introduced by European manufacturers which have contributed to the growth and development of the furniture industry in those countries.

IDRC annual report

(Continued from P. 3)

need new varieties that are better able to withstand these conditions".

Population studies

Population issues, the report adds, have also been "a major concern since the outset of IDRC operations". During 1973-74 there was a considerable increase in support of studies "that help government leaders and scientists in developing countries gain a broad understanding of the economic, sociological and psychological determinants of fertility behaviour and, through that understanding, formulate more effective population policies and programs".

A large part of the report is taken up with detailed accounts of the progress made in eight particular projects. Among these is the work done by a team of Latin American scientists in designing their own world model as an alternative to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology model that was

popularized in *Limits to Growth*; the studies done in six Asian cities of the important role played by hawkers and vendors in providing cheap food for the poorest sections of the population; and the research being carried out collaboratively in Newfoundland and Upper Volta to find an effective biological means of controlling the blackfly which transmits onchocerciasis, or "African river blindness", in many parts of West Africa.

This section also describes the invention of a script processor that permits Arabic to be transmitted by telecommunications and other machines without losing the quality and subtlety of handwritten script.

During 1973-74 the agricultural program, which claimed 41 per cent of the total funds approved for projects, enlarged its support of research in fisheries and forestry. In fisheries the concentration was upon aquaculture in South and Southeast Asia, while in forestry research has focused upon the improved use of forest products among rural communities of poor tropical countries, mainly in Africa.

Offices overseas

In line with a basic principle of IDRC that, to the greatest possible extent, research workers in developing countries should take the responsibility for identifying and directing the research, the decentralization of Centre operations was taken further in 1973-74 with the building up of regional offices in Singapore, Bogota and Dakar. These offices are mainly staffed by personnel from the region.

Its staff at the Ottawa headquarters is also drawn from many countries, and in March 1974 Cheikh Hamidou Kane of Senegal, who had been UNICEF regional director in West Africa, was appointed a vice-president.

The IDRC is at present totally financed by appropriations of the Canadian Parliament, and it makes an annual report to Parliament through the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Its 21-member board of governors, which met in Ottawa at the end of September, is headed by Louis Rasminsky as chairman; there are ten other Canadian governors. Among the non-Canadian governors, six are from developing countries. The president of the International Development Research Centre is Dr. W. David Hopper.

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