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IN CANADA'S FAR NORTH, THE BOOM HAS JUST BEGUN

(Written by Mr. Jean T. Fournier, Special Assistant
to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern
Development.)

Intensive development of Canada's Far North has long been neglected by the people of Canada, and the Federal Government in particular. Only after the Second World War did Canada, long preoccupied with more urgent problems, begin to take a more active interest in the development of the northern regions and the welfare of the native peoples. When, in 1953, Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent announced to the House of Commons the creation of a new department responsible for the development of the North, he observed the vast areas of the North had until then apparently been administered haphazardly. Major changes have since taken place and far more interest has been shown in the North in recent years, not only in Canada but in other industrialized nations. In particular, the announcement of major petroleum strikes in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, and at nearby Atkinson Point in the Canadian Arctic, as well as the voyage of the super-tanker Manhattan through the Northwest Passage, have caught the imagination of the public and attracted government attention to the potential of the Arctic regions and the development problems involved.

At a time when humanity is undertaking the conquest of space, Canada's Far North is still largely unknown and many false ideas continue to circulate concerning this region's potentialities. While it may be true that Northern Canada does not possess all the advantages of Alaska and of Russia's Far North, it is wrong to envisage the territories north of the 60th Parallel as an immense frozen wilderness, hostile, bare of vegetation, buried the year round under a thick blanket of snow, and populated by igloo-dwelling Eskimos. The climate of the Arctic regions is rigorous but it is not as forbidding as many believe. In spite of climatic and geographical difficulties, the Canadian North does not constitute a vast stretch of barren land with an economic activity limited to the traditional areas of hunting and fishing and a few Eskimo handicraft co-operatives. In fact, owing to progressive modern technology, especially in transportation, energy and communications, the initial cost of developing northern resources is not nearly as prohibitive as might be supposed. Nevertheless, one should not go to the opposite extreme and consider the Far North as an inexhaustible treasure-house of mineral, petroleum and natural gas deposits, which have merely to be extracted from the sub-soil and sent off to the international markets.

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The Canada Council also receives special funds from private donors, the most noteworthy of which to date was from the estate of the late Dorothy J. Killam and is expected to amount to \$16 million. The funds from private donations are used in accordance with the wishes of the donors.

The Council's assistance is directed both to individuals and to organizations. Assistance to individuals is mainly in the form of fellowships, scholarships and research grants. In its first ten years, the Council awarded scholarships and fellowships at the master's, doctoral and post-doctoral level to over 5,000 scholars in the humanities and social sciences, and to almost 1,400 performing and creative artists. Assistance to organizations, mostly in the arts, takes up a large proportion of the Council's revenues.

Who Gets the Money

In the year 1967-1968, the Council devoted approximately \$11,324,000 to the humanities and social sciences, of which \$7,513,000 financed 1,700 fellowships at the pre-doctoral and post-doctoral levels, and \$3,811,000 was applied to grants in aid of research, university libraries, meetings of scholars and artists, visiting lecturers, publication of scholarly works and other forms of assistance. In the arts, the Council spent \$7,125,000, of which \$917,000 was used to finance 235 bursaries and awards, and \$6,208,000 was applied to grants, including about \$1,519,000 for music, \$435,000 for festivals, \$1,707,000 for the theatre, \$1,237,000 for dance and opera, \$1,022,000 for the visual arts and \$288,000 for publications.

Apart from its own programme, the Canada Council administers on behalf of the Canadian Government two programmes of cultural exchanges with European countries. Under one of these programmes, fellowships and grants totalling \$568,000 were awarded in 1967-1968 to scholars and artists from France, Belgium and Switzerland. This year the programme will be extended to include the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the Netherlands as well. Under the other programme of cultural exchanges, the Council administers the funds of the Canadian Cultural Institute in Rome, created in 1967 by an agreement between Canada and Italy. The Institute offers awards totalling \$25,000 a year to Canadian artists and scholars who desire to work or study in Italy.

The Killam Awards of the Canada Council, another of its special programmes, were inaugurated in 1967 with funds from the Killam estate. These awards go to support a few scholars of exceptional ability engaged in research projects of far-reaching significance. Research projects under this programme can be in the social sciences and humanities, or inter-disciplinary, linking these with any of the physical or biological sciences.

Under its power to "make awards to persons in Canada for outstanding accomplishments in the arts, humanities or social sciences", the Council awards annually its own Canada Council Medal and the Molson Prize, which is financed by funds from the Molson Foundation. It also finances the annual Governor General's literary prizes, which are awarded by an autonomous committee.

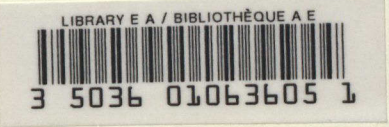
The Canada Council Act also provides for certain functions in relation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The Council has, accordingly, established a National Commission for UNESCO and

provides its secretariat and budget. As an agent of the Council, the National Commission co-ordinates UNESCO programme activities abroad, and administers a small programme in furtherance of UNESCO objectives. In the year ending March 31, 1968, the Council spent approximately \$198,000 through the National Commission for these purposes. CANADA COUNCIL

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The Canada Council is an independent agency of the Government of Canada to "foster and support the production of works in the arts and sciences". It carries out this task through the award of fellowships and grants. The Council is responsible for Canada's cultural affairs and administers, as a separate agency, the Canada Council for the Arts. The Council sets its own policies and administers them within the terms of the Canada Council Act. It is accountable through the Secretary of State and the House of Commons to a parliamentary committee, the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. The Council consists of 12 members appointed by the Governor in Council. The chairman and the vice-chairman serve for terms of not more than three years. The Council is carried out by a director and an associate director-in-Council. In the execution of its program, the Council may, through its staff, an advisory committee, and other resources: establish and maintain private and public institutions; Council research; ministerial responsibilities. devoted to the Council support; relationships and exchange; have and to carry out research; and to publish journals and

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for 1970, compared to \$16 million for 1963, an increase of more than 300 per cent. The Federal Government itself participates in petroleum prospecting in the Far North through the agency of the Panarctic Oils Company, a mixed corporation of which the chief shareholder is the Government, with 45 per cent of the shares. This company undertook to spend \$50 million over a five-year period in order to sink 17 wells in the Arctic archipelago. In addition, the Department of Northern Affairs, which is responsible for the development of natural resources in the Far North, has contributed handsomely to the present expansion of the mining and petroleum sectors by considerably increasing the volume of its investments in the development of natural resources, transport and communications. Thus, between 1961 and 1965, public investments rose from \$10 to \$19 million, and it is estimated that they reached almost \$40 million in 1969.

The Canadian Arctic possesses other resources besides its mining and petroleum potential. Almost 18 per cent of Canada's fresh-water reserves are to be found there. In addition, the North of Canada has a number of still-untapped sources of hydro-electric power. A profitable forestry industry exists in the Yukon and the Mackenzie District. It is improbable that manufacturing will develop on a large scale in the near future. On the other hand, tourism, fishing and hunting are gaining momentum, especially in the Western Arctic. Finally, the economic contribution made by the government of the Northwest Territories deserves particular mention. As a result of recommendations by the Carrothers' Commission, the Federal Government transferred the seat of government of the Northwest Territories from Ottawa to Yellowknife in 1967. Since then, the budget and assets of the NWT have risen considerably. The budget, which stood at only \$7 million in 1963, should reach \$82 million in 1970; the number of persons employed in the administration of the Territories, fewer than 100 at the time of the transfer to Yellowknife, will probably reach 1,700 this year.

The future of Northern Canada remains in most respects closely bound to the development of its natural resources: mines, petroleum, forests, water and the related activities of fishing and hunting. This development will continue to require considerable investment in both the private and public sectors. The Far North's potential has so far remained largely untapped, but since demand from domestic and world markets is increasing, and as technical progress facilitates the opening of new mines and reduces the cost of shipping its products, the North will certainly be called on to intensify the exploitation of its resources. Transport is unquestionably the key to taking full advantage of this area's almost boundless potential. In particular, if the voyage of the Manhattan succeeds in opening the Northwest Passage all year round, Canadian tankers and ore-freighters will be able to use this route, thus doubling the profitability of certain expansion projects in the Arctic. Geographically, Northern Canada is at the summit of the world. Banks Island is nearly equidistant from London, Tokyo and New York. The Arctic is already used as a short-cut for airline routes. A permanent seaway through the Northwest Passage would shorten the traditional ocean routes by thousands of miles, and might revolutionize the activities of this region to an even greater extent than did the building of the railroad in the Western United States and Canada. The boom in the Far North's development seems to have just begun.

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