



Habitat

United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements
Vancouver 1976

The countdown is on for a successful conference

Countdown 1

In just over one year from now, Habitat United Nations Conference on Human Settlements will begin in Vancouver. But many of the most important Habitat activities must take place in advance of the Conference itself. These include the processes to involve the various levels and departments of governments, non-governmental organizations, institutions, and private citizens.

The Habitat Participation Secretariat of the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs aims to give all Canadians an opportunity to contribute to Conference preparations. If this aim is to be achieved, it will require careful adherence to a timetable, which governs the way the various parts of the preparatory process — national and international — fit together.

The preparatory process for Habitat includes many activities. For the Conference to be successful, all the different inputs must be completed on time.

Countdown 2

The basic framework (see diagram, page 2) comes from the Habitat Secretariat at U.N. Headquarters in

New York. In consultation with an International Preparatory Committee. When this group, representing 56 member countries, held its first formal meeting in New York early this year, it emphasized the absolute necessity of completing the various preparatory tasks on time.

This is especially important if the proposed public participation process is to work successfully.

One important task just completed was the submission to the U.N. of a preliminary "National Report on Human Settlements" from the countries which will participate in Habitat. The contents of these interim reports will help the U.N. determine which topics are ranked highest by member states for consideration at Vancouver.

Canada's interim national report will be published in the next Bulletin to provide organizations and individuals with an opportunity to comment on it prior to submission of the final report to the U.N. at the end of December, 1975.

Countdown 3

This will not be the only opportunity for Canadian citizens to have an impact upon the Conference

proceedings. Other elements of the preparatory process have been designed to ensure that there will be extensive public participation.

Canada's positions at the Conference itself will be developed by drawing from the opinions and recommendations of governments, industries, non-governmental organizations, institutions, and individuals. It is expected that these will be gathered mostly from public meetings, seminars and symposia where Habitat and its issues will be discussed.

The Canadian National Committee will hold a series of public meetings next fall. Locations of these meetings will be announced by the end of April. The sheer volume of briefs expected to be presented will create its own constraints in the preparations and timing of the public meetings. Associations and individuals would greatly assist in the process by sending their briefs, including a summary of 500 words, during this coming summer. These can be forwarded c/o the Canadian Participation Secretariat.

Countdown 4

Symposia on issues likely to be the basis of the International

The Canadian Participation Secretariat will be organizing a series of *symposia* across the country. These sessions will explore in depth the major issues likely to be discussed at Habitat, as these are identified in National and International preparations. We shall announce the topics, set the dates and the places, and invite some of the key speakers. But the *symposia* are open to all and we hope that those with special knowledge or special concern will seize the opportunities that they provide.

Further details on the *symposia* will be published in the Bulletin beginning in the next issue.

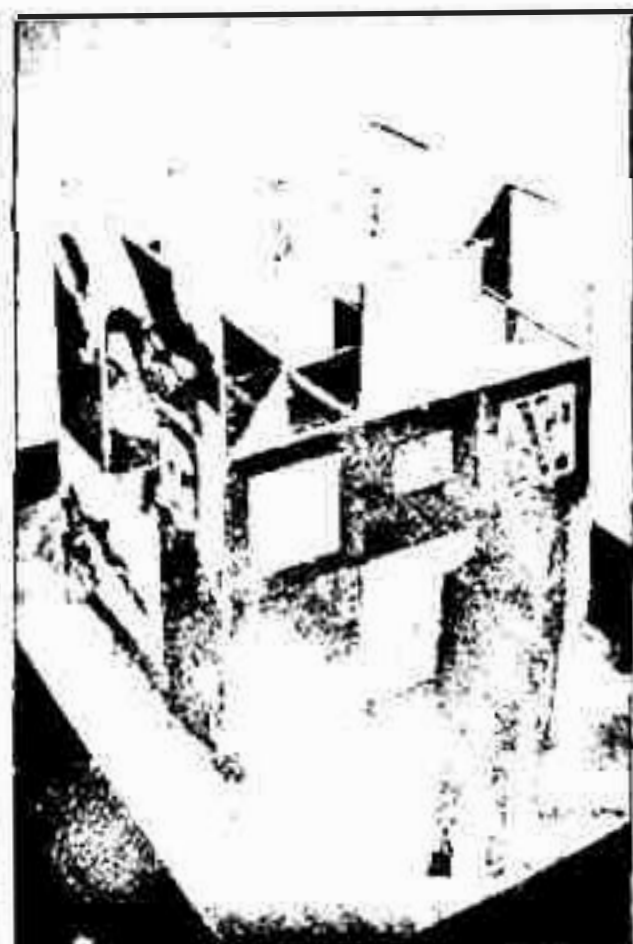
We hope you will help to make them a success.

Conference agenda are also planned. Panels of experts will debate various options for the future of settlements in the next 10 to 15 years with the public invited.

Most of the *symposia* will take place in the fall. But one or two will hopefully be held before the summer.

Individual organizations, whether national bodies or community groups, are encouraged to hold discussions — seminars, meetings, etc — on issues related to Habitat and to forward the results of these discussions to the Participation Secretariat.

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Habitat exhibit at ASPO/CPAC

Hon. B. Danson calls for action

Canada's Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson called on organizations and individuals to contribute now to preparations for Habitat.

In an address prepared for delivery to the Joint Planning Conference of the American Society of Planning Officials and the Community Planning Association of Canada, Mr. Danson said, "If you wait until next May you are likely to be too late to have the influence you should."

The ASPO/CPAC Conference brought together some 3,000 professional planners, public officials, and concerned citizens in Vancouver in April. "Sharing space: From Neighbourhood to

Continent" was the Conference theme. This is especially appropriate to the types of discussions and exchanges of ideas that Habitat preparations require in the months ahead. The idea of sharing needs emphasis particularly as our settlements increase in complexity, size, and density.

The Minister stressed that it would be a mistake for NGOs to focus all their energies on the Habitat Forum — the meeting of International NGOs which will take place at the same time as the official United Nations Conference. "The Canadian Government, and no doubt other governments around the world, wants to incorporate ad-

vice from NGOs and individuals into what happens at the official Conference," he said.

Mr. Danson noted that the decision of ASPO and CPAC to hold their meetings together in Vancouver this year is in recognition of the fact that Habitat will take place in the same city in 1976. This underlines the importance the planning professions attribute to Habitat. And the Government of Canada sees these meetings as a significant part of the preparations for Habitat — nationally and internationally.

He listed four specific ways for Canadians to affect the Habitat process.

(please turn to page 2)



Habitat

timetable for UN and national preparation

■ National
□ International

Month	Event
1975 January	Formal Preparatory Committee I 15-22.1.75
February	
March	
April	Meeting of United Nations Environment Program Governing Council, Nairobi 16-22.4.75
May	
June	Regional Preparatory Meetings: Asia, Teheran 14-19.6.75 Africa, Cairo 21-26.6.75
July	Regional Preparatory Meetings: Latin America, Caracas 30.6-4.7.75
August	Resumed Preparatory Committee meeting
September	30th Session, U.N. General Assembly Deadline, International Photo Contest 30.9.75 Regional Preparatory Meeting Europe, Geneva
October	
November	
December	
1976 January	Formal Preparatory Committee II
February	
March	Distribution, UN Final Conference Documentation
April	
May	Formal Preparatory Committee III

HABITAT BULLETIN is produced by the Canadian Participation Secretariat, in conjunction with the Canadian Host Secretariat of the Department of External Affairs. It is intended to convey information on Canadian and U.N. preparations for Habitat, and to encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations and individual Canadians in these preparations.

NEXT ISSUE will appear in June 1975.

EXTRA COPIES, singly or in reasonable quantities, are available free of charge from the address below.

ADDRESS all enquiries to: Canadian Participation Secretariat for Habitat, Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0P6.

Ottawa, April, 1975.
Bulletin No 3.

NOTE: Volume 1, No. 1 of the Bulletin is now out of print. All relevant information has been included in issues No. 2 and 3.

(from page one)

Hon. B. Danson...

First, to write directly to him as Minister or to the Canadian Participation Secretariat in the Ministry. "We may or may not agree with you. But if we do not hear from you, we will never know."

Second, there will be a series of public hearings across Canada under the auspices of the Canadian National Committee later this year. These will be excellent opportunities for community groups and individual citizens to present what they feel is important to them in their communities.

Third, symposia will be organized in different parts of the country for the debate of specific matters arising out of Habitat. These will be an opportunity for specialists and relevant organizations to present position papers on Canadian human settlements issues and discuss them with a public audience. These issues will be of interest to the governments of Canada at all levels, and to all Canadians.

Fourth, Mr. Danson added, "you can contribute to Habitat by getting something done in the field of human settlements." For governments, groups, and individuals, the success of Habitat will have to be measured according to the kind of action taken to improve our communities. "The occasion of Habitat can and should be the occasion when things happen."

But we should not limit our perspective to what happens now and by 1976. The Minister concluded: "The success of Habitat can best be judged in 1980 or even later. Only then, will we be able to look back and decide if Habitat made some significant and permanent changes in the way we deal with human settlements."

Other major professional organizations, such as the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, the Council of Planning Librarians, the American Institute of Planners also participated in the Joint Planning Conference, as did the Student Planning Network.

A number of mobile workshops, which have become traditional at these meetings, gave delegates an opportunity to see and discuss planning practices in the Vancouver region.

Delegates to Habitat and the Habitat Forum will no doubt visit many of the same sites in 1976.

(from page one)

The countdown is on...

Regular annual meetings or conventions of non-governmental organizations, learned societies, and other groups held between now and the Conference might also produce useful ideas for Habitat. For example, the Participation Secretariat would be pleased to receive policy statements, resolutions or recommendations which relate to Habitat themes which come out of such meetings. It will be up to individuals or organizations — informal groups, too — to take the initiative in submitting such material with Habitat in mind. Here also, a summary is always helpful.

The Canadian contribution at the next meeting of the international Preparatory Committee in August 1975 will be developed with the assistance of these inputs.

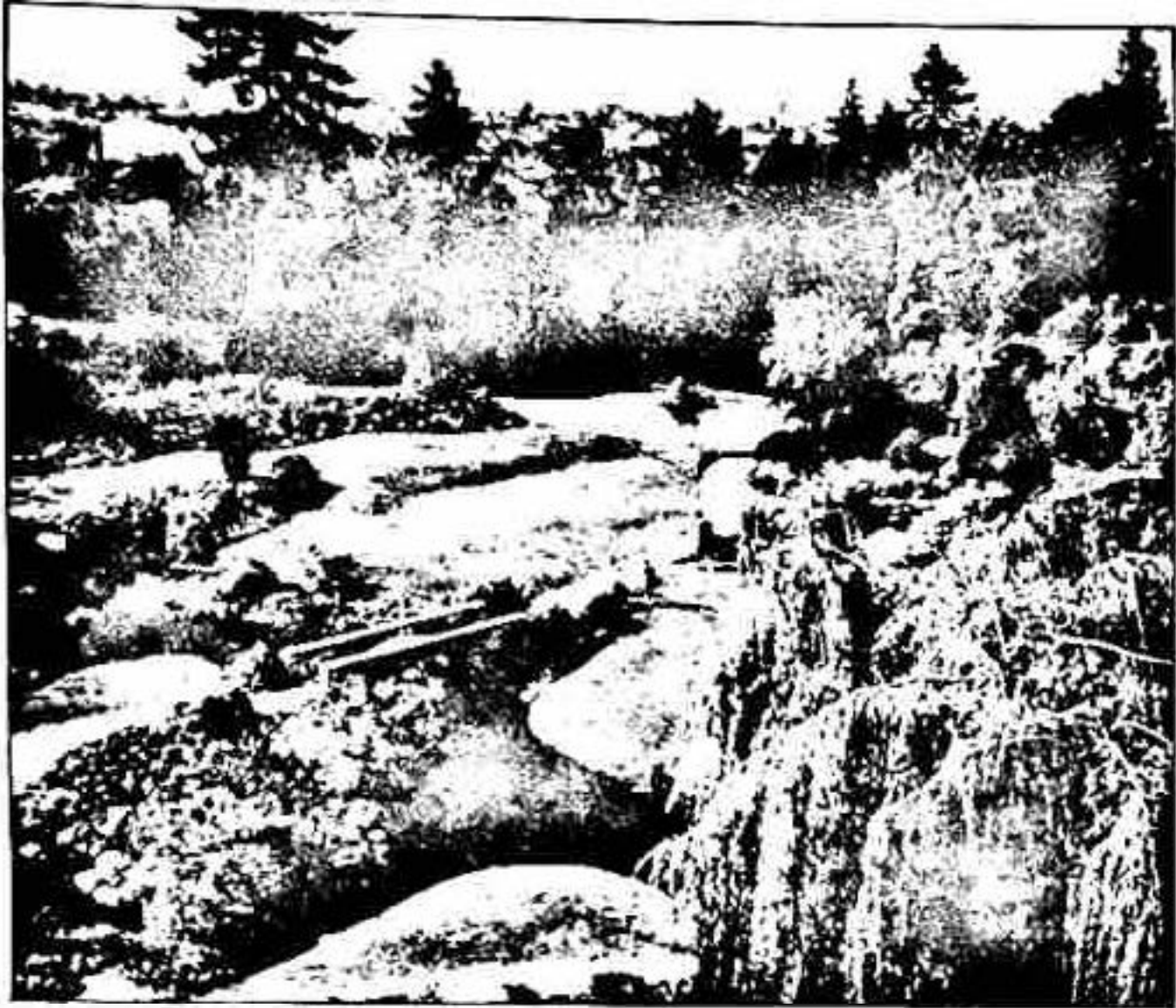
Countdown 5

In September, Canada will participate in a regional meeting for Habitat, to be held under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe. This is one of a series of four regional meetings planned by the U.N. in conjunction with Habitat (for information on others, see the international section of this Bulletin).

A full-scale national meeting of non-governmental organizations is scheduled to take place in Ottawa, December 12-13, 1975. A major difference between this meeting and the earlier one will be the discussion of written briefs forwarded by organizations and individuals. Results of the discussions will be important inputs for the preparation of the Canadian government's positions at Habitat.

In January, 1976, another international Preparatory Committee meeting takes place. The Canadian delegation will be influenced by presentations at the public meetings to be held during the fall, and the many other views expressed during our preparations.

The final draft of the Canadian positions for the Conference itself will be submitted to the Federal Cabinet by the end of April, 1976. And, based on the Cabinet's decision, the official Canadian delegation will present Canada's views at the Habitat Conference.



Vancouver on the West coast, one of Canada's loveliest cities, will host Habitat.

Once upon a time ... Vancouver



Hon. Barney Danson, Minister of State for Urban Affairs

Framed by scenic splendours almost reminiscent of an Arabian Nights setting, the city glitters jewel-like on Canada's Pacific rim. Over it loom the snow-capped crags of the coastal mountains — forerunners of the spectacular Rockies beyond — cascading down to the mighty ocean which alone seems to have halted the westward advance of this vast land. This is Vancouver, gateway to the Orient.

Here, even if it is not "order and beauty, calm, luxury and delight" as the poet said, until now, at least, Vancouver has retained the healthy balance of a city large enough to offer its people all the attractions of a great cosmopolitan centre, without paying the usual bitter price of rapid growth: overcrowding, noise and vanishing green spaces.

An ideal site

This could be why many see in Vancouver a site especially well suited to host a Conference such as Habitat. Barring a few mass transportation and housing problems, relatively minor in comparison to those encountered in many a megalopolis, Vancouver typifies all that numerous cities of the world wish to be, but have scant hope of achieving in the near future. The earliest hope is that Vancouver will resist the siren song of overgrowth and apply the solutions which this Conference has been called to supply.

Charming, colourful

Vancouver's varied ethnic mosaic is beyond all doubt one of its greatest charms. It's a blend of exotic, mysterious Asia and the spirited, colourful customs of East Europe's people, in a setting which reflects the British love of green spaces, large parks and delightful gardens. The rich Canadian Indian heritage is also to be found in the soaring totem poles and imposing wood carvings. Then too, in the heart of the city you might chance upon a group of "pétanque" players, or patrons lounging in quaint bistros or terrace cafes. Life is serene in this benign climate, flawed only by winter grayness and drizzle.

Paradoxically enough, this temperate and pleasant climate may well be Vancouver's worst enemy! Wary of fighting the icy winds and blowing snows of winter, people in less favoured parts of Canada are constantly tempted to flee to this balmy haven with its snowless beaches nestled at the foot of mountains where the white magic lingers long to please the fancies of any skier.

This largely explains the rapid growth of the once small French speaking community. Quebecers of 1975, it would seem, are far less enamoured of snowy landscapes than were their forebears who founded New France.

A few figures

Today, 6,685 French-speaking people live in Vancouver, forming a community large enough to have their own radio station and new-

spaper. They patronize terrace cafes where they can sip coffee and nibble their daily "baguette" — which, oddly enough, will likely come from a German-Swiss bakery. Much of the city's gourmet food industry is run by people of Germanic descent.

This being "British" Columbia, people of British origin quite understandably are in the majority. They number 313,095 in this city of 426,255 inhabitants where the leisurely custom of afternoon tea is still a charming tradition. Vancouver's "old country" flavour is enhanced by the special shops which sell tea only, but in an incredible variety of more than 80 blends. Enough to suit every taste and calculated to make the Twinings of London and the British Tea Council so dear to the hearts of Garvas Huxley and John Grierson, turn green with envy.

The city also has a Chinatown perhaps second only to that of San Francisco. The Chinese, along with numerous Japanese, compete imaginatively to attract customers to their restaurants, shops, imported food counters and jewellery stores. Japanese technology and expertise have won them prominent roles in heavy industry, lumbering, mining, large-scale commercial enterprises and, of course, the fishing industry. India and Pakistan for some years now have been eyeing the many opportunities in Canada's West Coast metropolis, but the only ethnic group to hang its shingle in the very heart of the city is the one which boasts its own "Robsonstrasse" right next to Georgia Avenue. The latter is Vancouver's main artery, with the art centre and the two hotels where the Conference will hold both its plenary sessions and committee meetings — namely, the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, the Hyatt-Regency Hotel and the Hotel Vancouver.

Whether by osmosis, absorption or emulation, these multicultural contributions have left their mark upon the entire city. The Vancouverite, perhaps because of the forbidding barrier of the Rocky Mountains insulating him from the East, is of a unique and quite distinctive type, perhaps more akin to his California cousin to the south than to other Canadians.

Vancouver is an aggressively youthful community, in contrast with the "retirement city" of Victoria on Vancouver Island, across the Georgia Straits. Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, is linked with Vancouver by modern ferries and by shuttle planes with their friendly suburban-train feeling.

Vancouver quite clearly belongs to the affluent society. You'll find no large tenement districts here. At the most, there are a few sections in the throes of urban renewal, carefully supervised by three levels of governments, mindful that the eyes of the world will be upon them during the 1976 Habitat Conference.

They do things well

Vancouver's blending of so many desirable ethnic qualities and characteristics stands the city in good stead in its planning for the Conference. The British instinct for correctness, the orderly German mind, Japanese attention to details, Chinese politeness, the diplomacy of the French and the open friendliness and hospitality of the Canadian Indian — all have been

linked to ensure that nothing is left undone to entertain their guests during that fortnight when the entire world will join them to study the problems of human settlements.

There is already talk of an almost continuous series of open-air concerts, along with strolling bands of troubadours and dancers going from place to place to entertain the delegates. The city's streets will be gaily decorated in the Conference colours, with artists from Vancouver and its neighbouring cities of Burnaby and New Westminster vying with one another to create the most imaginative displays.

Host Committee set up

In order to ensure proper coordination, there is a Host Committee. It is under the Chairmanship of the Department of External Affairs and includes representatives of the Government of the Province of British Columbia, the City of Vancouver, the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs and other Departments, agencies, and organizations, as required.

The Host Committee first met at the Ministerial level in April 1974 when the Minister of State for Urban Affairs represented the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Honourable James G. Lorimer, Minister of Municipal Affairs, represented the Government of British Columbia, while His Worship Mayor Phillips was represented by Deputy City Clerk Robert Henry.

Normally, the Host Committee meets under the Chairmanship of the General Director of the Host Secretariat, Mr. John A. Dougan, with Associate Deputy Minister Christopher Woodward representing the province, and Mr. Henry, the municipal administration. Responsibilities for such functions as entertainment, hospitality, transportation and many others have been assigned to a number of ad hoc sub-committees. In the heart of the city, along this picturesque waterfront, and in the lofty halls of academe at the University of British Columbia where the NGOs* will be staying, everything points to the prospect that Vancouver will be a genial host to Habitat.

Hospitality will be provided for the thousands of delegates, and they can also look for some debating competition during their stay. The London tradition of the soap-box speaker is still very much alive in Vancouver, especially in its famed Stanley Park!

* Non-government organizations, i.e., private ones, in the UN vocabulary.



Hon. James G. Lorimer, Minister of Municipal Affairs, B.C.

The youth program



High priority must be given to educational activities relating to human settlements problems. To make this happen, the non-profit organization "All About Us — Nous autres Inc." has developed a program to involve Canadian youth in activities related to the Conference. Called "The Youth Dimension", the program's object-

ive is to reach Canada's 5.8 million students at the elementary, secondary, and community levels through their teachers and schools, to stimulate awareness and involvement in problems of human settlements and the role of the individual in improving the quality of life in communities. The program would utilize the occasion of the

Statement by Dr. C. Ian Jackson

Hon. Barney Danson, Minister of State for Urban Affairs, recently announced the appointment of Dr. C. Ian Jackson, 40, as acting Executive Director of the Canadian Participation Secretariat for Habitat: UN Conference on Human Settlements. The following is Dr. Jackson's message to our readers:



I am very pleased to become closely involved with Habitat preparations again as they enter a new phase of activity. Having participated in the initial plans for the Conference, and having been directly concerned with Canadian preparations for the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, I shall do all that I can to ensure that Canadian participation in Habitat is effective and comprehensive.

On a subject as important as human settlements, it is evident that Canada's role at Habitat must be based on the views of governments at all levels, of non-governmental organizations of all kinds, and, as far as possible, on the views of individual Canadians. One of the main tasks of the Canadian Participation Secretariat is to ensure that this happens. Habitat is a conference of governments, more than 140 of them, but Canadian participation should reflect the widest possible public participation in the preparations for that Conference.

This issue of the *Bulletin* describes some of the ways you can take part. Let me briefly summarize them.

- The Canadian National Committee, led by Senator Sidney Buckwold, will hold hearings across Canada late this year, to provide individuals and groups with a chance to tell the Committee, and through them the Government of Canada, what they believe are the important Canadian and international issues in the field of human settlements.

- The federal, provincial, and territorial governments are working

together to ensure that the views of individual municipalities and of other organizations are heard on matters of concern within each province and territory.

- We are arranging a series of public symposia, devoted to different issues of concern to Canada and other governments.

- Individual organizations, either national bodies or community groups, can arrange special meetings of their own that are related to Habitat, and that will lead these organizations to express their views on human settlements issues.

Perhaps most important, we want to encourage things to happen, without waiting for or depending on the Habitat Conference itself.

Although this Conference can and should lead to major improvements in the way we tackle human settlements problems around the world, it seems generally agreed that the problems must be tackled mainly by action within each country. The success of Habitat will depend in large part on the way we prepare for Habitat, and on the ways in which we utilize the occasion of Habitat to generate such action in Canada.

We expect to publish the *Bulletin* every two months between now and the Habitat Conference. I hope that this issue will encourage you to become involved in our preparations.

Habitat Conference to focus on current issues in Canada and abroad. For the long-term, the program would hope to provide the basis for a sustained and continuing development of school curricula and programs dealing with human settlements.

"All About Us — Nous autres Inc." has already established good working relationships with teachers and other groups whose work directly involves support, service and leadership in education. For the last two years, they have collected and published the ideas of young people and their teachers about Canadian life and society in paintings, poems, stories, letters and other creative works.

The idea of a Youth Dimension Program has been given support in principle by provincial representatives on the Federal/Provincial Committee for Habitat (see separate story this page). Further consultations would be held with the provincial ministries of education before any program is launched.

Appointments to the national committee

Six new appointments to the Canadian National Committee have raised to sixteen the number of eminent Canadians serving on this Committee, which is responsible for stimulating public participation in Canada's preparations for Habitat.

Drawn from all parts of Canada, the new additions include political science Professor P.J. FitzPatrick of Fredericton, New Brunswick; architect Etienne J. Gaboury of St. Vital, Manitoba; sociologist Brenda Hayes of Vancouver, B.C.; educator Cynthia Hill of Inuvik, Northwest Territories; Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil of Edmonton, Alberta, and businessman Norman MacLeod of Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Chairman of the Committee is Senator Sidney L. Buckwold, a former Mayor of Saskatoon. Dr. Hugh L. Keenleyside of Victoria is Honorary Chairman.

With these appointments, the Committee is now well represented in all regions of Canada. To complete the complement from the West, Professor Lloyd Axworthy of Winnipeg has been serving on the CNC since its inception. Similarly, Ontario has been represented since the Committee's establishment by Professor Meyer Brownstone, broadcaster Adrienne Clarkson, and communications expert Johnny Yes-No of Toronto. From Quebec are former Quebec Minister of Social Affairs Claude Castonguay of Quebec City and planner Guy Legault of Montreal. From the Maritimes, lawyer J. Gerald Godsoe Jr. of Halifax and home economist and broadcaster Frances Innes, St. John's, Newfoundland, are also working on Habitat preparations.

The Committee is now preparing to host a series of public meetings across Canada this fall to solicit the ideas and views of the public, which they will feed back to the Government for consideration in the development of Canada's contributions to Habitat.



The town crier

More and more corporate and professional conferences are devoting part of their programs this year to Habitat, or to Habitat-related themes. Three major international ones are the 22nd World Congress of the International Union of Local Authorities in Tehran (IULA), April 15-19; the 12th World Congress of the International Union of Architects in Madrid, May 5/10, and the joint annual conference of the Community Planning Association of Canada and the American Society of Planning Officials in Vancouver, April 12-17.

For its conference in Tehran, the International Union of Local Authorities has published a 122-page book of background papers titled "New Patterns of Urbanization". Copies are available from: IULA, 45 Wassenaarseweg, The Hague 2018, Netherlands.

A new book, tentatively called "Canadian Urban Perspective" is being written by Professor Leonard Gertler of the School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Waterloo, and Dr. Ron Crowley of the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs. Timed for publication in June, 1976, the book is being supported by a research grant from MSUA. Prof. Gertler, former Director General of Research for MSUA, notes that during the past few years the Ministry has had more than 50 senior researchers from a number of disciplines studying a wide variety of Canadian urban problems. "This research," Professor Gertler said, "has produced a harvest of results, and our job will be to pull these together, integrating, interpreting and communicating this output ... in such a way that the material can be used by non-experts — by political leaders, administrators, community groups, teachers, the media and the public in general."

An international design competition for the urban environment of developing countries has been announced by the International Architectural Foundation Inc. It invites designs from architects and planners around the world for revitalizing a large area of squatter settlements on the outskirts of Manila, Philippines. The best entries will be on display in Vancouver at the time of Habitat. Details are available from: The International Architectural Foundation, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020.

The second national conference of Canadian non-governmental organizations will be held in Ottawa on December 12 and 13 of this year. Details will follow in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

Support for private organizations

A recent development in Canadian preparations for Habitat has been taken with the formation of the Canadian NGO (Non-Governmental Organizations) Participation Group. (see page 8).

The announcement was made by Senator Sidney L. Buckwold, Chairman of the Canadian National Committee responsible for the public participation program for the international meeting.

"We consider it essential that NGOs maintain a continuing role in developing the interest of Canadians in Habitat and assisting in the expression of Canadian viewpoints on the issues involved," said Senator Buckwold. He expressed the hope that the Participation Group will involve national, provincial and local organizations and citizens' groups in Canadian preparations for Habitat.

The 22-member Participation Group was established in response to suggestions made at a two-day conference for Canadian NGOs held in Ottawa last November, which was attended by approximately 120 national and provincial associations from across Canada. (Habitat Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 21. The NGO Participation Group represents a wide geographic cross-section of Canadian associations concerned with human settlements issues.

The first official meeting of the NGO Participation Group was held in January, 1975, after a preliminary meeting in December. At that time Geoffrey Grenville-Wood of the United Nations Association in Canada, Ottawa, was elected chairman. Serving with him on the executive committee are: Ms. Pat McAusland of the Community Planning Association of Canada, Regina, secretary; Dr. Marjorie Bursa of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Ottawa; Yvon C. Dupuis de l'Ordre des Ingénieurs du Québec, Montreal; and Rev. Wayne Smith of the Inter-Church Committee on Population, Don Mills, Ontario.

The Group expects to open an office in Ottawa very soon. It is expected to meet formally three or four times between now and the Conference next year while sub-committees and the executive committee will meet more frequently.

Five objectives have been defined by the Group:

- 1) To influence Canadian policy leading up to Habitat;
- 2) To bring out, through available and new channels of communication, human settlements issues, encourage widest possible discussion and participation, and build in feedback mechanisms;
- 3) To assist the Canadian National Committee in achieving their objectives related to Habitat;

4) To build in an on-going structure for consultations between the public and government, at all its levels, on human settlements issues;

5) To coordinate Canadian input in the agenda preparations for Habitat Forum, the non-governmental conference.

Pending opening of the full-time office, correspondence may be addressed to: Geoffrey Grenville-Wood, Chairman, Canadian NGO Participation Group, c/o United Nations Association in Canada, at 63 Sparks Street, Ottawa. Phone: (613) 232-5751.

Members of the NGO Participation Group, and their organizations: Ms. R. Andreychuck, National Council of YMCAs, Moose Jaw, Sask.; Rev. A. April, Canadian Catholic Conference, Ottawa; Mrs. Blanche Bourgeois, Canadian Home and School and Parent Teacher Federation, Cocagne, N.B.; Ms. Jean Burgess, Metropolitan Alliance for Development, Sydney, N.S.; Dr. Marjorie Bursa, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Ottawa; Marvin Cohen, Ordre des Architectes du Québec, Mount Royal, Que.; Bernard Daly, Canadian Association in Support of the Native Peoples, Ottawa; Harry Daniels, Native Council of Canada, Ottawa; Yvon C. Dupuis, l'Ordre des Ingénieurs de Québec, Montreal; Mrs. Anne Dryden, University

of Alberta, Edmonton; Gilles Frenette, Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux, Montreal; Derek Hammond, Canadian Home Manufacturers Association, Stephenville, Nfld.; Richard Harmston, Canadian Council for International Cooperation, Ottawa; Norman Hallendy, Heritage Canada, Ottawa; Mr. Pat McAusland, Community Planning Association of Canada, Regina; Bruce McLeod, Housing and Urban Development Association of Manitoba, Winnipeg; Robert Morris, Canadian Association of Neighborhood Services, Vancouver; Jeff Patterson, Canadian Council on Social Development, Ottawa; Rev. Wayne Smith, Inter-Church Committee on Population, Don Mills, Ontario; Mrs. Hilda Symonds, Association in Canada Serving Organizations for Human Settlements, Vancouver; Geoffrey Grenville-Wood, United Nations Association in Canada, Ottawa; Mme L. Strasbourg, Regroupement des comités des citoyens de Hull, Hull, Quebec; Mark Dorfman, Canadian Institute of Planners, Waterloo, Ont.

Canada's audio-visual presentations

The Minister of State for Urban Affairs, Honourable Barney Danson, has submitted proposals for audio-visual presentations to the United Nations in four major theme areas:

- 1) Management of Urban Growth and Land Use;
- 2) Design Innovations for Settlements in Cold Climates;
- 3) Governing Human Settlements;
- 4) Community Rejuvenation.

Once UN acceptance is received, audio-visual presentations — films or slides — will be prepared for at least three of these.

The Canadian Urban Demonstration Program has been a major source of ideas for themes. Through combining suggestions from a number of sources, it was possible to develop these themes in considerable depth. As a result, the presentations should be of broad national and international interest.

The problem areas addressed in Canada's proposals may briefly be described as follows:

- Urban growth in Canada has four major characteristics:
- 1) rapid increase in the size of a few very large cities;
 - 2) static or even declining populations in some medium and smaller-sized centres;
 - 3) urban encroachment on some of the most productive farmlands;
 - 4) loss of vitality of certain rural areas.

The situation is rendered more complex by Canada's vast geography, encompassing diverse regions of very different economic potential; its federal system of government; and its free-market economy.

Climate, geography and economic affluence combine to make Canadian energy consumption per

capita the second highest in the world — with unfortunate consequences for both the natural environment and the global resource balance. A challenge in new housing design and settlement planning is to reduce dependency on fossil fuels through the use of the sun, wind, and other renewable energy resources. Food production can also be substantially increased in urban areas, even year-round, provided we develop the appropriate designs and technology.

Local government in Canada faces a dilemma. On the one hand, larger and more complex urban regions call for more centralized, regional types of government. On the other hand, the people who live in these regions feel a growing distance between themselves and their governments and are insisting on greater participation in the decisions affecting their lives. The problem is thus to achieve a satisfactory balance between individual and collective rights. Another equally pressing problem is to maintain a tax base capable of financing the provision of adequate urban services.

Many of the changes being wrought on human settlements involve the demolition and replacement of what are (perhaps often erroneously) seen as rundown structures, neighborhoods, or even whole communities. The buildings and streets may be rehabilitated or replaced, but equal heed must be paid to the underlying social and economic decay. The challenge is to eliminate the socio-economic causes of decay rather than just to patch up the fabric.

The Canadian experience which forms the basis of these four themes has varied. While there are some successes and useful lessons

to be reported, there have been failures too. Some reference to these will be included in the presentations, since one can learn from mistakes, as well as from successes.

Because of the large number of proposals for demonstration projects already submitted to the U.N. from almost 100 countries, some of Canada's proposed subjects may be modified or even eliminated to avoid duplication.

Although final decisions have not yet been made on which areas will get special attention, preparation of scenarios for the audio-visual presentations has already begun. A wide range of examples from all over Canada will be included. Some of the background material will come from submissions to the Urban Demonstration Program. Other examples will come from other sources and experience.

The audio-visual presentations themselves will be produced during 1975, then sent to the U.N. by the end of the year for videotaping and dubbing with sound tracks in the U.N. official languages.

Two to three minute "capsules" will be made for each. These will be available for use during Conference sessions, adding an innovative aspect to the proceedings. The extensive human settlements film library that will thus be developed will be available for screening to the public at large as well as to official delegates in Vancouver, and afterwards. The possibility is also being examined of having showings in other Canadian centres.

A permanent audio-visual data bank of solutions to human settlements problems will hopefully be established, of a kind that can be continuously added to.

Commonwealth Seminar on Social Work Education and Human Settlements is to be held at the University of British Columbia in connection with Habitat. The Seminar will have eighty to ninety participants, primarily from North America but with representation from developing countries and from Europe. The Seminar will be held from June 6th to the 10th, 1976. Habitat is viewed by those planning the Seminar as providing a unique opportunity to focus attention and to concentrate efforts on a major and longstanding area of social work concern and endeavour. The coordinator of the Seminar, from whom additional information may be obtained, is Dr. Richard Spence, School of Social Work, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, V6T 1S7, telephone (604) 228-3251.

On the theme of the audio-visual presentations project.



Demonstration projects and Habitat

Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson has announced the first set of projects approved under the Canadian Urban Demonstration Program (CUOP). Fourteen projects from all parts of Canada are included in this initial announcement.

Over 150 proposals have already been submitted to the CUDP, many in anticipation of inclusion in Canada's audio-visual presentations at Habitat. Officials of Urban Affairs are quick to point out, however, that the CUDP is only one source of material for the Habitat films.

The Urban Demonstration Program is in fact now quite separate from Habitat preparations, both in concept and in administration. The CUOP is a continuing program of Urban Affairs, intended to run at least through March of 1980. Projects are selected on merit as judged against Program criteria. These criteria require that projects respond in a practical, comprehensive, and innovative way to issues of recognized significance for human settlements in Canada.

The Program has drawn inspiration from the concept of "demonstration project" as proposed by Canada for Habitat. But the

Program is not tied to preparations for the Vancouver Conference. This is why Urban Affairs officials emphasize that Mr. Danson's announcement of Canada's audio-visual proposals to the U.N. should not be confused with announcements of approved CUDP projects. The two are quite separate matters.

Undoubtedly, however, there will be several projects selected within the CUDP that will be used as material in Canada's Habitat films. Officials in the Canadian Participation Secretariat, who have overall responsibility for the preparation of the Habitat films, point out that scenarios for these films are now in preparation, though they are not yet able to indicate the specific items that will be included in the final versions. For this reason, Mr. Danson has not announced which of the approved CUDP projects are to be used in Habitat films.

The Urban Demonstration Program is administered by the Development Branch of Urban Affairs. Inquiries and proposals should be addressed to: Canadian Urban Demonstration Program, Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0P8.

Emphasis on provincial participation

In Canada, many of the issues to be addressed by Habitat fall mainly under provincial jurisdiction. It is therefore of prime importance that the appropriate departments or agencies of the provincial governments are thoroughly involved in the preparatory process. To achieve this involvement, an early step in Canada's preparations was the establishment of a Federal/Provincial Preparatory Committee for Habitat. Each province and territory was invited to designate one Minister, who was in turn responsible for appointing a departmental official to the Committee, which has been meeting periodically during the past months. (see page 8)

In addition to the meeting of the Federal/Provincial Committee, members of the Canadian National Committee (CNC) and the Canadian Participation Secretariat have travelled to many provincial capitals for consultation with senior provincial officials and representatives of appropriate provincial non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

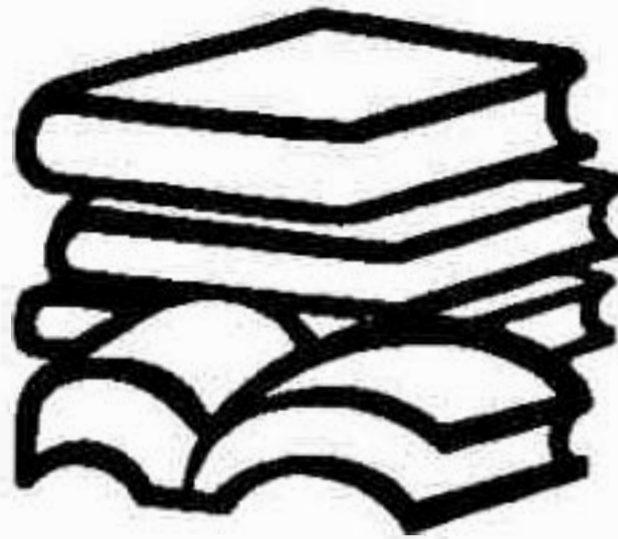
The most recent of these meetings took place in the Prairie Provinces, whose governments were urged by the CNC Chairman, Senator Sidney L. Buckwold, to:

- Communicate with municipal governments to obtain their input on human settlement issues;
- Help co-ordinate symposia, seminars, and public meetings;
- Assemble a catalogue of studies already undertaken in the provinces, whose results might be useful to Habitat;
- Consult with NGOs at the provincial level.

Similar meetings were held with the British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec governments last fall. Others are planned in the Atlantic Provinces.

Senator Buckwold believes these meetings are another way to ensure the fullest possible federal/provincial co-operation during the preparatory process.

A number of provinces have already established inter-departmental committees for Habitat, similar to the one which operates at the Federal level. Provincial programs and activities will be outlined in future editions of the Bulletin.



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"Somebody, somewhere, has tackled these problems"



Mr. Maurice Strong, Executive Director of the U.N. Environment Program.

During a short visit to Canada last month, Maurice Strong, Executive Director of the U.N. Environment Program in Nairobi, held a press conference during which he referred to Habitat. Here are some extracts from his remarks.

"I would like to enter a special plea for a large Canadian citizen interest in Habitat."

"There are some real eco-disasters shaping up in the cities of the developing world. They can hopefully be avoided by the application of knowledge we already possess."

"There are very few major problems in the field of human settlements that haven't been tackled with some success by somebody somewhere. The Conference of its solution-oriented demonstration program will help nations to look throughout the world for those areas where important human settlements problems have been solved successfully, and where the experience can be made available to others facing the same problem."

"The urban areas of the developing world in particular are where some of the most acute environmental problems, of poverty for example, are felt. The problem of where to get enough drinkable water, something we in Canada tend to take for granted, is increasingly acute in some countries, where big city populations are growing at double the overall rate of population growth — rates which are far greater than anything we have ever had to cope with in our history."

"The idea of Habitat is not to have a lot of bureaucrats sitting in New York or Nairobi inventing solutions, but to look at places where people have tackled human settlements problems and to make that experience very widely known."

Photo Contest

Photo Contest on Habitat, "A Better Way to Live", is being held — see the enclosed UN newsletter. For details on the Canadian contest, contact:

Dr. W.R. Childer,
232 Fernic
Ottawa, Ontario
S1Z 5W5

Our contribution to the preparatory committee



Urban Affairs Secretary J.W. MacNeill

"The question of human settlements is one of the half-dozen 'critical issues of mankind' for the balance of this century." So said Urban Affairs Secretary J. W. MacNeill in his opening statement to the January meeting of the 56-nation Preparatory Committee for Habitat, held at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Human settlements thus rank, he suggested, with such other vital issues as population, food, energy, resource limits and the natural environment. "Moreover, human settlements and urbanization are inextricably linked to each of these other critical issues."

In this context, the Secretary said he sees three primary purposes of Habitat, and the preparations for it: 1) to provide an opportunity for the nations of the world to address the most important economic, social and political settlements issues and problems of concern to both the industrialized and less industrialized nations;

2) through its audio-visual demonstration program to focus attention on available solutions to these problems;

3) to address, debate and adopt a number of recommendations for action.

There are two types of such recommendations: those calling for international co-operation; and those that involve action at the national and subnational levels.

"We assume," said MacNeill, "that recommendations of both types will come before the Conference largely, but not exclusively, in the form of official reports by the Secretary-General. They should also hopefully be 'pre-negotiated' during the preparatory process."

Mr. MacNeill also said that he was "very pleased with the arrangements that are being made for the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the preparations... we look forward to co-operating in those arrangements to the fullest extent possible."

As the Conference agenda is developed during the months of preparation, the Secretary went on, "It is vitally important that this work proceed within an agreed common framework." This framework, he suggested, should provide a few simple themes or guidelines; but they should not in any way be conceived as a final agenda for the Conference itself.

The Preparatory Committee agreed that discussion of action at the national level should range over five themes: national settlements policies and development; social and economic aspects of human settlements; planning and manage-

ment of settlements; design and construction of shelter, infrastructure and services for human settlements; and last, human settlements and the natural environment. It was also agreed that specific items within these general themes would be identified in national and regional preparations during the coming months. A sixth major category for discussion would be international action and co-operation.

While Habitat is an international conference, the nature of most of the subjects with which it will deal is quite local.

In his statement to the Preparatory Committee, Mr. MacNeill pointed out that "Most of the forces governing the spatial distribution of human settlements and their rate of growth are subject to influence or control mainly at the national or sub-national level. The same is true of the forces governing the form and quality of life in our cities and other settlements... many of these forces can be managed only by the provinces and municipalities."

Nevertheless, MacNeill suggested, Habitat can reasonably be expected to achieve fairly hard results in at least four areas:

1) a number of clear program results, including perhaps, an ongoing human settlements demonstration program based on the idea that there could be great usefulness in exchanging information on human settlements problems in creating the vast number of settlements that must be put in place during the next 25 years;

2) results in the field of education and research — such as a decision to establish or strengthen a number of regional urban management training institutes to develop and train leaders and officials who can grapple with the task of managing the huge cities and megalopolis that seem inevitable;

3) some financial institutional result, such as the establishment of the Human Settlements Foundation — a kind of world bank and expert consultation service — as proposed, for example, by the United Nations Environment Program;

4) a declaration of principles recognizing that human settlements is one of the critical issues facing mankind; identifying the main areas requiring action and the political and scientific resources that need to be marshalled; and representing a commitment by governments to tackle human settlements issues with the resources and urgency required.

From its earliest conception, Habitat has been envisaged as having a series of physical "demonstrations" as one of its most important characteristics. These would essentially be working models, documented on film, of solutions to human settlements problems.

Said MacNeill: "Certainly, we in Canada expect to benefit greatly from the demonstrated experience of other countries in dealing with settlements problems... similarly, there are a number of areas where our experience would probably be of interest to other countries."

Bringing together the governors and the governed

by Geoffrey Grenville-Wood

Since 1972, international conferences under United Nations auspices have examined such issues as the environment, the law of the sea, population and food. At the same time a series of meetings have been taking place directly within the United Nations system — UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), the 6th Special Session of the General Assembly on Raw Materials and the upcoming 7th Special Session on Development and International Economic Co-operation. These conferences have been organized with the basic aim of improving the day-to-day lives of the people of the world — the vast majority of whom live in poverty and degradation. Habitat must be seen in the context of this tightly intertwined set of activities. No examination of settlements can be made without placing priority attention on their economic and social contexts. In other words, it is pointless and short-sighted to regard this United Nations conference as one that will deal only with examination of better ways of housing people and moving them around. The issues come best to the fore when we look at some of our own problems in Canada, especially in the North, where an approach to the housing problem would be totally irrelevant if it were not made part of a comprehensive examination of the economic, social and cultural aspects of the lives of the individuals concerned. The questions, therefore, that ought to be in our minds in Vancouver are related closely to what all these other international activities have been about. We must examine the causes of the poverty and squalor of many human settlements. We cannot ignore the national and international economic and social systems that create and live off poverty and that also cause difficulties with the human environment, the world's population, and which created a serious shortage of food.

It is also said that one of the main thrusts of Habitat should be directed at encouraging action at the national level. This is of course of prime importance to Canada. The conference must not be seen as an opportunity, solely, of involving new groups and organizations in Habitat-related issues. There are many existing groups in our country that have been concerned for many years and have been working extremely hard at trying to have their voices heard in the corridors of power. The opportunity that such a conference affords of bringing to the fore such groups and of attempting to insert their concerns and ideas into the decision-making process, at both the political and bureaucratic levels, is a priority which we must not overlook.

I do not expect that the conference itself is going to be the kind of event that will involve a large proportion of Canadians, either directly or indirectly. However, an opportunity to tackle some of the problems that Canadians have faced, with a growing sense of impotence, is thrust upon us by the very presence in Vancouver of this conference. The political process that involves citizens in decision-making at all levels of government must be a prime objective. Habitat, apart from the important intrinsic value it has, serves as a unique testing-ground for finding out whether there are real possibilities for citizen participation. The instruments for such an experiment are already in place; there is a government that claims it wishes to encourage such participation; there are many, many groups and individuals in all parts of the country who are concerned with the issues and who wish to make their views felt in the strongest possible way; and there are efforts underway aimed at bringing these two parties together. Whether this experiment will be a success we will not find out until June 1978, but I am convinced that at least there is good will and, most important, there is a willingness to try. Pierre Elliott Trudeau said recently:

"There is no lack of willingness on the part of individuals and citizens' groups to participate in government. And whether we like it or not, such participation is an irreversible fact of life."

"The only choice facing governments, at all levels, is whether to invite such participation, at every stage of the decision-making process, in an atmosphere of co-operation; or whether to encounter participation after the fact, in an atmosphere of hostility. It is really no choice at all; but the saying is a lot easier than the doing."

"Citizen involvement does not make for easier government; it just makes for better government."

The activity that we hope to undertake around Habitat is aimed at involving government in precisely this kind of dialogue, at the level of issues as well as at the level of process and mechanisms of consultation. The increasing impotence and alienation of citizens in relation to their governments is a problem that all societies must face and the opportunity that Habitat offers can only be seen as one more testing-ground in the attempt to break down barriers between the governors and the governed.

Mr. Grenville-Wood, of the United Nations Association in Canada, is chairman of the recently formed Canadian NGO Participation Group.

Canada's Interim report

In response to a request from the United Nations, Canada has submitted to the U.N. Habitat Secretariat, an Interim National Report that outlines some of the major settlement issues in this country as well as emerging policies and programs that attempt to deal with these issues.

The Report adopts, as a unifying focus, the theme of urban growth

management. In Canada, the rate of growth and its continuing concentration in a few large metropolitan areas is of much greater concern than the total increase in national population. As population in some parts of the country is increasing more rapidly than can comfortably be accommodated, other regions remain almost static or are even declining. And in all parts of Canada a loss of rural vitality frequently accompanies urban growth.

The Interim National Report also treats the sectoral issues of housing, transportation, local

government, land-use, and regional disparity. However, stress is laid on the ways in which these areas are influenced by, and in turn can influence, the distribution of Canadian population.

The U.N. has asked that each country's Interim Report be limited to about 7,000 words. These Reports are intended to merely sketch areas of major national concern and to indicate policies and programs that might later be discussed in depth as part of an international exchange of experience. Therefore, the reports are necessarily limited.

Each country, however, has been asked to prepare a more complete National Report by December 31, 1975. Canada will take this opportunity to analyze in detail the issues raised in the Interim Report. In preparing the final paper there will be ample opportunity to incorporate the views of provinces, municipalities, other provincial departments, and the general public.

This final report will be an official publication of the Government of Canada and is expected to be one of the definitive outcomes of the national preparations for Habitat.

Habitat and Habitat Forum Preparations - Whom To Contact

Many activities will take place before and during the Habitat Conference. And, as reported throughout this Bulletin, there are many ways for individuals and groups to get involved.

To facilitate this process, here are some names and numbers. The organizations and people listed have specific roles. Contacting them directly according to those roles will save everyone time, and get the right reply to the questions posed.

INTERNATIONAL

CANADIAN HOST

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION

GOVERNMENTAL

Habitat Secretariat
United Nations
E. Penalosa
(213) 754-1234 (5476)

Canadian Host Secretariat
Department of External Affairs
J. Dougan (613) 996-0820
Vancouver Office: (604) 666-6761

Canadian Participation Secretariat
Min. of State for Urban Affairs
C.I. Jackson (613) 995-9315
Vancouver Office: (604) 666-6761

Interdepartmental Task Force

Federal/Provincial Preparatory Committee

NON-GOVERNMENTAL

NGO Working Group on Human Settlements
45 Wassenaarseweg, The Hague
2018, The Netherlands
J.G. van Pulten, Chairman

ACSOH (Association in Canada serving Organizations for Human Settlements), Vancouver
T. Tanner (604) 698-4471

Canadian National Committee*
Senator Sidney L. Buckwold
c/o Canadian Participation Sec.

NGO Participation Group**
G. Grenville-Wood, Ottawa
(613) 232-5751

Shaded rectangles represent functions involved in the HABITAT FORUM, a meeting of international non-governmental organizations to be held concurrent with the official Conference.

* The Canadian National Committee is responsible for fostering public interest in Habitat and stimulating discussion of the issues and appropriate responses to these issues in Canada, advising the Minister on Canada's positions at Habitat, based on the points of view expressed by the Canadian public, and bringing to the attention of the Minister recommendations received during the Habitat preparatory process that could improve the quality of life in Canadian communities.

** The NGO Participation Group was created to identify and bring together human settlements activities of NGOs and to stimulate these groups to participate in Canadian preparations for Habitat and Habitat-related activities. The NGO Participation Group anticipates that it will provide a channel for an expression of NGO views on Habitat issues to the Canadian Participation Secretariat, through the Canadian National Committee.

Federal/Provincial Committee

Canadian National Committee

Federal Interdepartmental Task Force

Province	Department	Name	Telephone
British Columbia	Municipal Affairs	G. C. Whelan	(604) 387-3201
	Lands	N. Pearson	(604) 387-5600
Alberta	Municipal Affairs	Noel Dant	(403) 429-4821
	Environment	K. R. Smith	(403) 427-6209
Saskatchewan	Municipal Affairs	Ken Love	(306) 523-8641
Manitoba	Planning Secretariat of the Cabinet	McD. Butler	(204) 946-7537
Ontario	Environment	Frank Dudas	(416) 965-3980
		Vic Rudik	
Quebec	Municipal Affairs	J. P. Arsenault	(418) 643-2020
New Brunswick	Cabinet Secretariat	D. Dennison	(506) 453-2071
Nova Scotia	Municipal Affairs	Ms M. Manzer	(902) 424-7550
P.E.I.	Housing Authority	A. Wells	(402) 892-3535
Newfoundland	Municipal Affairs	J. Aliston	(709) 722-0726
Yukon Territories	Local Governments	W. Bilowich	(403) 667-5155
North-West Territories	Federal Liaison Bureau	W. Morgan	(613) 992-7707

Senator Sidney L. Buckwold
Dr. Hugh L. Keenleyside
Mr. J. Gerald Godsoe, Jr.
Dr. Lloyd Axworthy
Mrs. Adrienne Clarkson
Mrs. Frances Innes
Mr. Guy Legeault
Mr. Johnny Yes-No
Mr. Claude Castonguay
Professor Meyer Brownstone
The Most Reverend J.N. MacNeil
Mrs. Brenda Hayes
Mr. Eileen Gaboury
Professor P.J. FitzPatrick
Mrs. Cynthia Hill
Mr. Norman MacLeod

Department of Public Works
C.I.D.A.
R.C.M.P.
Department of External Affairs
Treasury Board
C.M.H.C.
Department of Indian and Northern Affairs
Department of Communications
Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce
Department of National Health and Welfare
National Research Council
Privy Council
Department of Regional Economic Expansion
Ministry of Transport
Agriculture Canada
Department of Environment
Secretary of State
National Film Board
Ministry of State for Science and Technology
Department of Finance
Information Canada
Department of Manpower and Immigration
Ministry of State for Urban Affairs