



Habitat

United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements
Vancouver 1976

Danson warns against disruptive forces at Habitat

Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson has affirmed that Canada has no intention of "opting out" or "copping out" of the Habitat Conference to be held next year in Vancouver.

In a hard-hitting speech to the United Nations Association in Canada, Mr. Danson answered criticism of recent U.N. decisions and of Canada's commitment and obligation to host the Conference under the rules approved by the U.N.

He warned against the possibility of potentially disruptive forces in attendance at the Habitat Conference using it to express their disagreement over various issues.

He also deplored the fact that some people will be tempted to express their opposition to the attendance of some participant nations "or observer groups, most prominently — but not exclusively — the P.L.O."

He said these "are concerns that demand expression but they should be aired at the appropriate place and that place is not Habitat."

Mr. Danson recognized, however, the concerns "felt profoundly by the individuals and groups who express them."

But he added that "legitimate or not, these deeply felt concerns could detract severely from the essential purposes of the Conference."

He said he would ask Canadians to recognize and remember that Canada "is acting as host to a United Nations Conference."

"It follows that the questions of attendance, of agenda, of rules of procedure are all matters that are determined by the United Nations as a whole, not by the host country. As a member of the United Nations, Canada has the right to express itself on each of these matters. It has done so and done so forcefully. As the member of the United Nations that is the host country for Habitat, Canada has the obligation to host the Conference under the rules approved by the United Nations and it will do so."

"Canada has no intention of 'opting out' or 'copping out' of the Conference. We intend to use our influence to strengthen the many positive aspects of the U.N. and to change those areas that we consider negative or even potentially destructive of the U.N.," said Mr. Danson.

"We don't intend to allow these forces full away, unchallenged. We will not run away; we will not lie

down; we will not turn our backs; we will not be intimidated. We have too much to gain by success and too much to lose by failure."

Mr. Danson said he believed that delegates to Habitat "will confine themselves largely to the issues the Conference was established to deal with: to those areas of common concern on which we can realistically seek improvement and solutions."

"Other matters, no matter how deeply felt, would contribute little," he said.

"Indeed, they would be divisive and destructive," he added, "negating the considerable value of a Conference convened to deal with one of the key critical areas of human concern."

The Minister said that as host Canada had an obligation to create an atmosphere "where our concern for the substantive issues of Habitat can be dealt with cooperatively and constructively."

"We consider this important; we are doing everything we can to ensure it by giving Habitat our full backing. We expect the content to be relevant and on a high level, and we want the results to be significant and to be long term," he said.



The Honourable Barney Danson, Minister of State for Urban Affairs (right) shown with Mr. J. King Gordon, President, United Nations Association in Canada, following his address to a UNA luncheon on November 26.

Conference to set forth NGO policies

This conference brings together more than 300 NGO representatives as well as a number of representatives of Federal and Provincial Governments. It offers a major opportunity for non-governmental organizations to express views on their approach to human settlements issues in Canada. The most important objective is to provide input to the Canadian Government for inclusion in

the statement of the Canadian position at the Vancouver Conference. In addition, the aim is to set forth the policies of NGOs on different aspects of human settlements in Canada to form the basis of future action beyond Habitat.

Of course, different NGOs have different approaches but one point is becoming more evident as December 11 draws near. The NGO conference does not aim at draw-

ing together a master human settlements plan for Canada. This will not be a "Human Settlements for Tomorrow" conference. There is little doubt, however, that such an all encompassing, forward-looking conference will be needed and should be called in the near future.

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Habitat

timetable for UN and national preparation

	National	International
1975 December	National NOO Conference 11-12 Report to Canadian Government by Canadian National Committee 31 Submission of National Report to the United Nations 31 Canadian audio-visual presentations to UN 31	
1976 January		2nd Preparatory Committee Meeting, New York 12-23
February	World Habitat Day 29	World Habitat Day 29
March		Declaration Final UN Documentation 1
April		UNEP Governing Council, Nairobi 30.3 - 14.4
May		Preparatory Committee Meeting, Vancouver 26-28 Habitat Forum 27.5-11.6 Habitat 31.5-11.6
June		Habitat Forum 27.5-11.6 Habitat 31.5-11.6

HABITAT BULLETIN is produced by the Canadian Habitat Secretariat. 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.

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

ADDRESS all enquiries to Canadian Habitat Secretariat, 6th Floor, Lord Elgin Plaza, 68 Slater Street, Ottawa K1P 5H1
Telex 053-4587
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Bulletin No. 7

Habitat agenda now drafted

Two of the most important preparatory components of the Habitat Conference — the formal conference structure and the draft agenda — have now cleared the fifty-six nation United Nations Preparatory Committee and the General Assembly.

Still to come:

- Draft rules of procedure and the three main policy papers (Declaration of Principles, Recommendations for National Action, and Recommendations for International Cooperation), to be taken up at the next meeting of the Preparatory Committee in January of 1976.

- Major and support papers for the Conference, now being finalized, to be distributed to national governments in the first quarter of 1976.

- Submission of audio-visual presentations by national governments by December 31 of this year (but with the expectation that many countries will not quite make that deadline).

Formulation of the agenda is the most important result of the United Nations Habitat Secretariat's work over the past year. The problem, according to Secretariat substantive staff, was how to organize the huge array of subjects under the human settlements umbrella in such a way that it could be dealt with comprehensively in different committees without confusion and overlap. Expert meetings on the agenda date back to the first meeting in Vancouver in 1973.

The structure of the Conference calls for a continuous plenary and three main committees. The first committee will take up the Declaration of Principles and then the Recommendations for International Cooperation. The two other committees will be devoted to the agenda items on Recommendations for National Action.

So more than one-half of the total conference deliberations will be on national action, which will be subdivided into six themes:

Settlement policies and strategies

Draft recommendations call for all nations to form human settlement policies at the federal level to cover such areas as: population growth and distribution, designation of growth poles for industrial location, reduction of disparities between regions and social classes, national guidelines for housing, infrastructure and services, and the role of settlements in national development strategies.

Settlement planning

The integration of human settlement planning with territorial spatial planning and economic development, as well as with individual sectors such as housing, transportation, energy, etc. are recommended.

Institutions and management

New and improved institutions to cope with new policies and with human settlement problems, including political, administrative and financial structures should be sought. The need for decentralization of decision-making wherever possible should be stressed.

Shelter, infrastructure and services

All aspects of housing and physical and social services through an integrated response to human settlement needs must be dealt with. New technologies and systems which make the best of local human and physical resources require attention.

The role of land as the most basic resource of human settlements needs study. Special attention must be paid to future development of unused land, the ability of the community to acquire land needed for future growth, land use controls and residential development, and to ensure public recapture of increased land values owing to community action.

Popular participation

New and innovative ways to involve people in decision-making need consideration. So, too, implementation of programs and management of human settlements.

The first three of these agenda items will be taken up by committee two and the others by committee three. Each theme will be examined in terms of demographic, economic, social, cultural, technological, environmental, and resource factors. They will also be considered from the perspective of scale: from the single dwelling unit to the neighbourhood, village, city, metropolis, region, province, and nation.

Habitat Secretary-General Enrique Peñalosa, describing the agenda in a special letter to human settlements professionals, noted, "I believe this structure and division of themes on recommendations for national action encompass the full range of human settlement concerns, yet are also concise enough to keep Conference proceedings and committee deliberations within workable bounds."



Poster design for Youth Dimension, a Habitat program for schools organized by the AN About Us group.

Habitat Forum participants urged to register soon



Local firms are donating many of materials to be used in constructing facilities for Habitat Forum at Jericho Beach, Vancouver. Standing atop this load of lumber are some of the people already at work on the site.

Work is proceeding well at Jericho Beach, future site for Habitat Forum. Almost every day there is a fresh delivery of material and tools, trucks, barges, steel beams or hundreds of gallons of paint donated by industrial firms.

Every day also brings new ideas, each as original as the last, among the several hundred young workers striving to make the NGO Forum the centerpiece of Habitat in Vancouver.

Jericho Beach, a former seaplane base of the Canadian Armed Forces, ten minutes from downtown Vancouver, will in fact be the meeting place. Everyone is invited, from simple citizens to Presidents and Prime Ministers, both as observers and as participants.

Complementing the United Nations Conference, which, by definition, will be attended only by

government representatives, Habitat Forum is intended as an alternate conference, a parallel meeting.

Contrary to an earlier announcement, registration for the Forum is free of charge. Moreover, ACSOH, the Association in Canada Serving Organizations for Human Settlements, has available over 2,800 rooms in the student residences of the University of British Columbia (some two kilometers from Jericho), and is ready to receive reservations from foreign participants. However, ACSOH is unable to book hotel rooms. Since hotels will be overflowing at Conference time, those who wish to make their own arrangements should do so as quickly as possible.

Although registration is free and optional, the organizers of Habitat Forum are urging all par-

ticipants to sign up, in order to get some idea of the approximate number of guests they should expect. This will make things much easier for them. What's more, those who have registered will be met at Vancouver airport on arrival, and transportation into town will be provided.

All requests for registration and reservations should be directed to Sandra Marriage, Habitat Forum, P.O. 48360, Bentall Centre, Vancouver, B.C., V7X 1K8.

Programme

The opening session will begin at 3 p.m., May 27. The first days will be devoted to the main themes of the UN Conference which is to open on May 31. This will allow the NGO delegates to prepare their statements of principles for the inter-government conference.

From May 31 on, a briefing will be held every morning from nine to ten in order to announce that day's agenda for the UN Conference. This will be followed by discussions and plenary sessions on various human settlements issues. Nine major topics will be dealt with over the nine following days.

Each day at lunch a world-renowned writer or thinker will speak on some aspect of the human environment. UN delegates will also be invited.

Participants in Habitat Forum will be able to follow the proceedings of the United Nations Conference through a closed-circuit television system.

There will also be audio-visual programs, films, videotapes, posters, and models provided by the NGOs, to illustrate potential solutions to problems facing human settlements.

Finally the *Forum Notebook*, to be published in April, will provide general information on the Forum and the UN conference. It will also include abstracts of the main conference papers, as well as brief studies prepared by the NGOs. These studies will be included in the document presented by the non-governmental bodies.

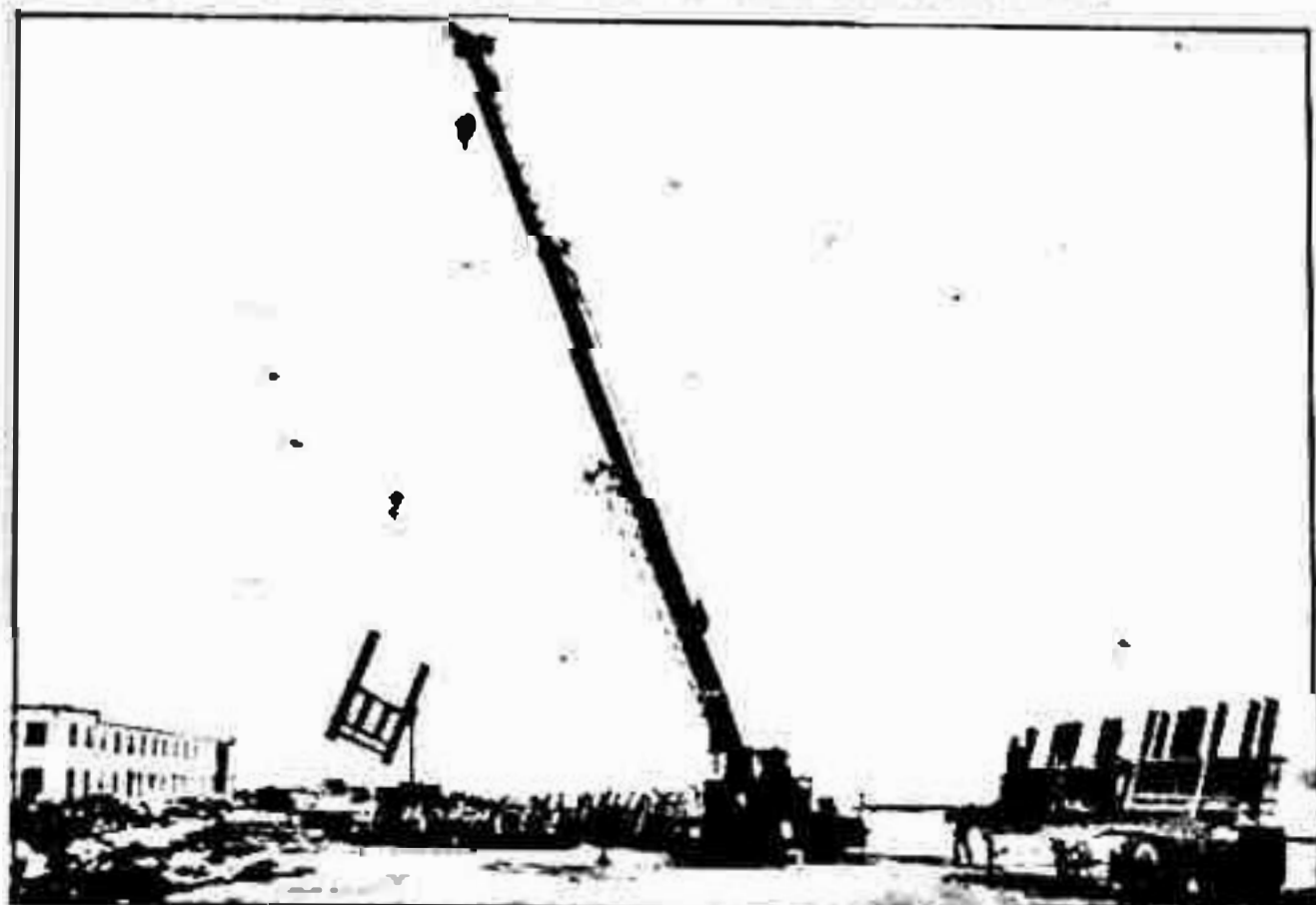
NGOs are invited to submit to ACSOH, by March 15, statements no more than two pages in length, to be published in the *Notebook* as the basis of workshop discussions. The *Notebook* will cost fifteen dollars.

Simultaneous translation in English, French and Spanish will be available during the Forum sessions.

One of five former aircraft hangers at Jericho Beach being used through winter as prefabricating shop for exhibition panels, auditorium seating, etc.



Iron railings, salvaged from Lion's Gate Bridge, will be used along waterfront of Jericho Beach, site for Habitat Forum. One of five former aircraft hangers being converted into exhibition halls and meeting rooms is in background.



An opportunity to question policies and the policy-makers

The *Habitat Bulletin* provides a forum for articles by people with stimulating views on human settlements issues. This time our contributor is Bernard Daly, a member of the Canadian NGO Participation Group and representative of the Canadian Association in Support of the Native Peoples. Mr. Daly is on the staff of the Canadian Catholic Conference.

What sort of policies have shaped the settlements where Canadians live and what alternative policies might be developed?

People from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will have a chance to share concerns and wishes about such questions at the December 11-13 Habitat national conference in Ottawa.

In a long-term perspective, the Ottawa conference could be one stage in an effort by Canadian citizens to map out new policies, and new social power coalitions, for our settlements in the future.

Policy

One context for working at policy issues will be the Ottawa conference workshops. The policies in question probably will include those that favor large urban settlements over small or rural ones, and stack up people in the Montreal-Windsor corridor and the Vancouver area.

Both political and economic policies are central in this regard — the policies that are uncovered by asking who decides, and who

benefits. If people settle in one place and not another.

Neglected questions

Those who most shape Canadian public opinion seem to neglect, perhaps even avoid, the fact that someone decides settlement policies and benefits from them.

A typical example of how decision-makers are overlooked can be found in the recent report of the Special Joint Committee on Immigration Policy. Regarding the growth of cities, it spoke (Section 20) of the "economic, social and cultural dynamism of cities and their attractiveness to Canadians and immigrants alike."

Much more revealing of what really makes cities grow was a municipal election the same week as the Immigration Committee tabled its report. A candidate for mayor in the new Quebec city of Gatineau promised to "build a metropolis" to displace Hull as western Quebec's major centre.

It is by the efforts of city builders, not by some inherent "dynamism" and "attractiveness," that cities become what they are.

Thus, in his study *Urban Canada*, M. H. Lithwick shows very clearly (pp. 17-18) that a commercial and artistic elite, and not the poor or the middle class, has dominated policy-making about cities.

The same analysis can be applied to policies for the settlement of the country as a whole.

Commercial interests have been dominant. Fur traders, not some relationship of fur and water as natural resources, determined many of the first water-front settlements. Later, grain traders, among them Immigration Minister Siron in the Laurier cabinet, had a major say in the early settlement of the Western provinces. The interests of industrialists in Central Canada explain much of the population concentration there — and not a lack of "dynamism" or "attractiveness" in other parts of the country.

And it was not native peoples who decided they should be settled on reserves... and now unsettled for the sake of new energy projects.

What alternatives?

One of the things likely to be discussed at the December 11-13 Habitat conference will be whether and how other decision-makers might be involved in developing future settlement policies.

One future social goal might be the effective participation of more people, extending decision-making beyond elites such as Lithwick identified. Another might be the development of those areas in the country and within each present settlement that have been neglected under the policies that have been shaping Canadian settlements up to now.



The Playhouse Theatre Centre's Theatre-in-Education Company toured schools in the Surrey district of B.C. throughout October. A group of actors/teachers gave students a problem to solve prior to the arrival of the company. They were asked to come up with a proposed facility for their community and a parcel of land to build it on. The game, called 'Planit', is for grades 7, 11 and 12, and is based on the themes of Habitat.

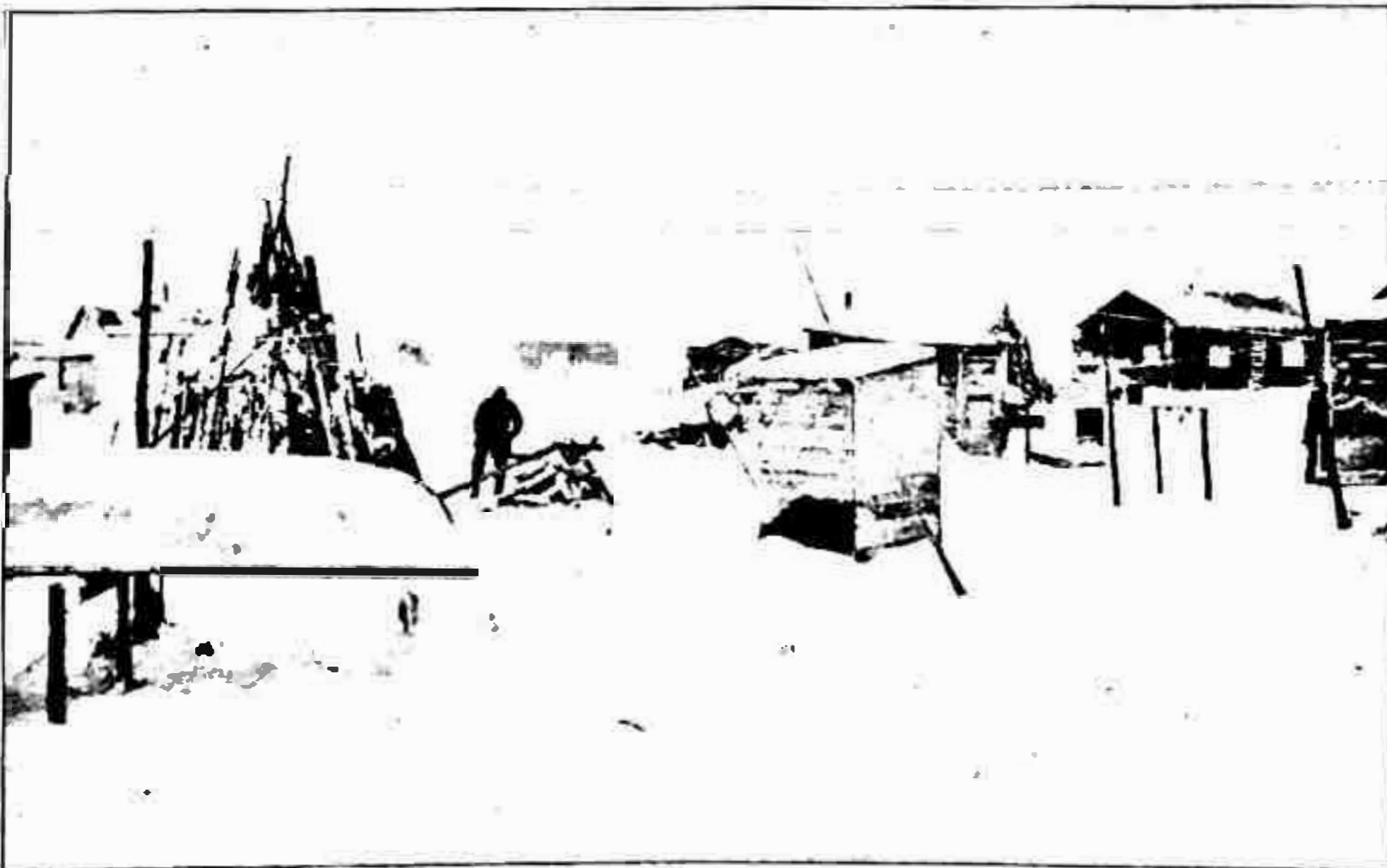
Students work on a room-size game plan taking various steps to realize their goals. For instance they must raise money for the project or get governmental approval for it. There is also a "patience" centre to which they are sent when they are overcome with "frustration."

The program runs for two hours and by the end of that time the students have experienced many of the steps involved in completing a project from concept to realization.

The Vancouver Billboard contest will run from the end of November to the end of January. The province-wide competition is seeking designs from elementary, secondary, and college students, as well as commercial and amateur artists, illustrating settlements issues. Prizes include free airline tickets, Canada Saving Bonds, and copies of a special publication on Vancouver being prepared for Conference delegates. Winning entries will be displayed from May 15 to June 15 on 300 Vancouver billboards. B.C. residents should watch local papers for details, or pick up information and application forms in banks or libraries.

The Canadian NGO Participation Group have been meeting with non-governmental organizations across the country in preparation for the December NGO Conference in Ottawa.

Geoffrey Grenville-Wood, Chairman of the Group, has just returned from a tour of the Western provinces, while Clair Woodbury, Coordinator met with associations throughout the Maritimes. Bernard Daly and Laurita Strasbourg have been consulting with various groups in Ontario and Quebec.



"And it was not native peoples who decided they should be settled on reserves..."

Vancouver delegates to enjoy full range of services

With up to 10,000 people expected in Vancouver for Habitat next June, it goes without saying that the hosting preparations represent an extremely complex task. Planning of accommodation and services has been underway for over a year.

All the hotels in the Vancouver area for the period of the conference have been block-booked by the Habitat Secretariat, and all reservations will be controlled by the Secretariat's own computer. Delegates are therefore asked to make their bookings directly through the Canadian Habitat Secretariat. Similarly, a limited amount of office space will be provided on an "as required" basis. However, if a delegation requires office accommodation for the total conference period the Secretariat will endeavour to locate such space at the user's expense. Unfortunately, office space in Vancouver is in short supply; consequently, delegations wishing such space should communicate their special needs to the Secretariat at the earliest possible date.

Special reception centres will be established at various ports of entry into Canada to assist delegates.

Secretariat staff will then be able to greet delegates the moment they step off their aircraft. Their hotel bookings will be verified on the spot, delegates will be assisted through customs and immigration as required, their baggage will be retrieved, and delegates together with their baggage will be taken directly to their living accommodation.

Registration and visitors' services

Once installed in their hotels, delegates can then proceed at their leisure to register for the Conference.

This registration will be done at the Visitors' Centre, a specially constructed facility located at the centre of the downtown area. For the duration of the Conference this will be the hub of all information and delegates' services.

The facilities in the Visitors' Centre will include the distribution of documentation, schedules, and other Conference literature, a delegates' message service, travel and tour information, a viewing area (where one may watch the day's proceedings live on television) and an exhibit area to house United Nations exhibits.

The Secretariat has also made special provision for all the supporting security, banking, medical and first aid services.

To link everything together, a closed circuit TV "Information Channel" will be in operation with TV monitors placed in all strategic locations to keep delegates abreast of schedules and major events on a minute-by-minute basis.

The conference facilities

The real business of the Conference will be conducted in 3 key locations. The principal site will be the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, which is a large modern complex of auditoria and meeting rooms. The main theatre can seat 2,800 people and can therefore accommodate both the official delegates and all accredited observers, together with limited seating for the general public. A smaller adjoining playhouse will be reserved for press conferences and briefings; in the same complex there is space for the Secretary General's office, administration and a number of studios for radio, film and TV interviews.

Three more committee rooms will be located a few blocks away in the Hotel Vancouver and at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

All sites will be equipped with normal conference facilities including simultaneous interpretation; there are also ancillary meeting rooms available for caucuses and round tables as well as lounges for the delegates, the press, and the general public.

In addition, all the events in the main Committee rooms and the NGO headquarters will be televised and carried over a closed circuit TV network interconnecting all locations.

Presentation of audio-visual projects

The really distinctive feature of this conference, however, is its emphasis on the use of audio-visual productions to present solutions to human settlement problems.

This is how they will be shown:

The Plenary Hall will be equipped with a large 15 foot rear-projection screen which will be visible from every part of the auditorium.

The two big committee rooms, on the other hand, will be equipped with individual TV monitors set into the delegate desks (one monitor between every two delegations). In all of these locations delegates will be able to call for the "capsule" versions of their projects and have them played back.

Facilities for the media

Some 1500 press and broadcast journalists are expected to attend this Conference and it is intended to provide them with the most comprehensive services possible.

For the press, the core of the operation will be the first two floors of the Administration Headquarters Building, located one block away from both the Hyatt Regency and the Hotel Vancouver. These floors will accommodate informal media accreditation and registration, briefings, computerized messages and reservations service, communications (telephone, telex, and closed-circuit television), the news agency offices, a major documentation centre, and the main news room including lounges and facilities for food and drink.

For the electronic media, most of the radio, TV and film facilities will be located in the mezzanine of the

Hotel Vancouver. This was previously occupied by the host broadcaster — CBC: Radio-Canada. The facilities therefore include a major studio fully equipped for inserts, link ups, etc. An ancillary documentation centre will also be provided together with mailing, shipping, transmitting and other services. Accredited broadcasters will be able to obtain rooms, equipment and technical help through the Broadcast Booking Office.

Media accreditation

The Office of Public Information (O.P.I.) of the United Nations will be handling the accreditation of the 1,500 press and broadcast journalists expected to attend Habitat.

Those wishing to be accredited for the May 31 to June 11 Conference are asked to have a senior executive of their organization make a request to O.P.I.

Accreditation requests should be addressed to William Powell, Director, Press and Publications, O.P.I., Room 367, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017.

O.P.I. plans to set up an accreditation desk in the Begg Building in Vancouver at least a week before the opening of the Conference. The Begg Building is being converted into a Conference Office complex and Media Centre.

Progress report from five provinces

Alberta: Habitat begins at home

The Alberta government is giving full support to Habitat. An interdepartmental Habitat Preparatory Committee and a Habitat Secretariat will direct Alberta's program.

The provincial government wants human settlements issues to become ongoing priorities in Alberta and in Canada.

The Alberta program has begun with five public meetings — Peace River, November 25; Camrose, November 27; Calgary, to be announced; Medicine Hat, December 8; and Lethbridge November 29 — with the theme "Develop your Community: Planning as if People Matter."

The Alberta government believes that future planning must consider the fiscal, economic, and social needs of human settlements. For this reason, the Secretariat has been working actively with the Departments of Municipal Affairs, Federal and Inter-governmental Affairs; Business Development and Tourism; Environment; Recreation, Parks and Wildlife; and Alberta Culture as well as many agencies throughout the province.

The results of the public meetings will be used in the preparation of an Alberta position paper on Habitat. This will be a contribution to the national Habitat activities.

Preparations for Habitat Forum are also well underway. A Steering Committee, under the auspices of the Community Planning Association of Canada (CPAC), is coordinating the NGOs for the Forum. CPAC has received a grant to facilitate a follow-up series of meetings in smaller provincial centres. The NGO Project will be addressed to centres such as Grand Prairie, Fort McMurray, Wataaskawin, Lloydminster, Edson/Hinton, High River, Drumheller, Brooke, and Pincher Creek. Between the provincial and non-governmental meetings, over 80% of the population will have an opportunity to express their views about human settlements.

The Alberta Habitat Secretariat has been gathering information on outstanding human settlements solutions in the province. These projects will be submitted to Ottawa for consideration for the Canadian Exhibit being planned for Habitat and for a tour in Canada afterwards. Alberta believes that Habitat must start at home, and so is preparing a provincial exhibit which will show Alberta's solutions to human settlements problems. This mobile exhibit will appear in most of the centres in the province. Such projects as the Regional

Resources Project # 1 in Carbon, the Blood Indian Project in Standoff, the High River Project, and the Community Resources Centre in Medicine Hat will be included in the provincial exhibit.

Alberta will also host delegates to the Vancouver Conference who will wish to visit the province either before or after Habitat. The province has achieved considerable success in dealing with some human settlements problems which delegates might wish to see. Contact: Susan Green, Chairperson, Alberta Preparatory Committee, 5th Floor, 1002-108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, telephone (403) 427-3717.

Bill Donahue, Coordinator, Alberta Habitat Secretariat, 5th Floor, 1002-108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, telephone (403) 427-3717.

NGO contact: Tom Priddle, Executive Director, Community Planning Association of Canada, 202-8820A MacLeod Trail South, Calgary, Alberta, telephone (403) 252-6155.

Manitoba: a mobile exhibit

Habitat activity is well underway in Manitoba. And a well-planned program will ensure that most Manitobans have been exposed to Habitat by Conference time in May 1976.

A highly successful series of regional workshop seminars in five smaller communities were concluded recently. Organized by the Manitoba Division of the Community Planning Association of Canada (a member of the Manitoba NGO group) in cooperation with the province of Manitoba, these seminars concentrated on topics related to the September 9 Winnipeg Symposium theme of "Rural-Urban Migration".

An urban information centre for Winnipeg is scheduled for opening early in 1976. Called the "Your City and You" shop, the project will serve as a focal point for "straight talk" on all developments affecting the urban environment and will function as an information resource for private citizens and elected representatives alike.

A unique Habitat display that became a centre of attention at the Winnipeg Symposium is scheduled for a tour of major Manitoba shopping centres shortly. It will be complemented by comprehensive Habitat educational kits that will be distributed to the province's schools.

Ontario: municipal seminars

Ontario shares a concern for human settlements issues with other regions of the country.

This is reflected in the Ontario Program for participation in Habitat and its related activities. The occa-

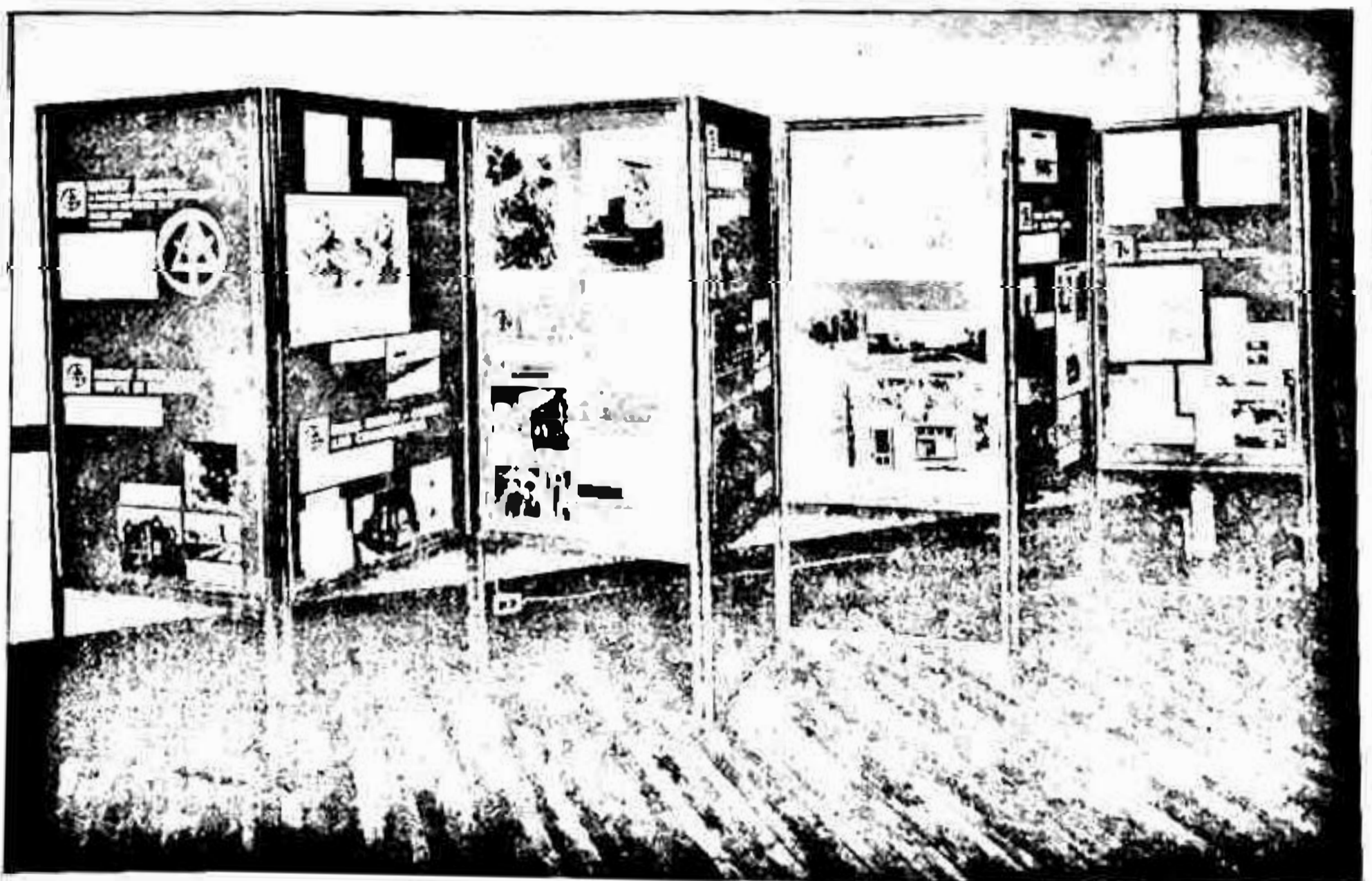
sion of Habitat is being used within Ontario to encourage greater awareness and understanding of human settlements issues among non-governmental groups and the public.

The Ministry of the Environment was appointed by the Premier to co-ordinate the Province's participation in the federal program for Habitat. An Interministerial Committee for Habitat was established of 24 representatives of provincial government departments interested in the subject.

This committee has an active advisory role and serves as a communication link with all branches of the Ontario Government and works in close cooperation with the Ontario Secretariat for Habitat of the Ministry of the Environment.

The Secretariat has been working with the Federal government to encourage public participation in Habitat. In the province, the Secretariat is actively seeking to involve municipalities and non-governmental organizations in Habitat-related activities.

A series of one-day seminars is underway for Ontario municipalities. These are being held in 11 Ontario regions during November and December. A committee representing Ontario municipal associations and the Provincial Municipal Affairs Secretariat have assisted in appointing co-ordinators from the regions to organize the seminars.



Portable display developed by the Manitoba Government to be exhibited throughout the province.

At each seminar, 40 representatives from municipalities in that region will examine human settlements issues from a regional perspective.

Representatives from the 11 seminars will then meet to compile an Ontario municipalities statement on human settlements. This statement will be forwarded to the federal government to assist in preparations for the Canadian presentation at Habitat.

The Ontario Secretariat is also encouraging representatives from the municipal seminars to attend the parallel NGO Habitat Forum in Vancouver in 1976.

A broader involvement of the Ontario public in the Habitat program is being encouraged. A group of NGO representatives has been assembled to work with the Ontario Secretariat for Habitat. They are jointly developing a program to encourage citizen initiative in community improvement.

One special activity which Ontario assisted in funding was the Public Land Ownership Conference at York University, November 13, 14 and 15. This was part of the Symposium series of the Canadian Habitat Secretariat.

Ontario and Saskatchewan are contributing to a Manitoba-initiated travelling exhibit on rural-urban migration and the rejuvenation of small communities. The tour will include parts of Northwestern Ontario.

The Secretariat is planning a catalogue of recent solutions to human settlements problems in Ontario. This record will serve as both a resource and as an example of what can be done to improve settlement life. Projects accomplished by government, municipalities, neighbourhoods, and non-governmental organizations to improve delivery of services and physical structures will be included.

Ontario is vitally interested in the solutions that have worked in other parts of the world which will be presented at Habitat. Many of these may be relevant to the Ontario situation. For this reason, the province will try to develop the best way to make use of this world experience to resolve its own settlement problems.

Quebec: a travelling secretariat

When the Quebec government decided, early in 1975, to take an active part in the development of the Canadian position at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, a special Secretariat was set up.

This Secretariat got down to work and in February, March and April mapped out a plan of action providing for the people of Quebec, through representative bodies, to have their say at the Conference. The organizations involved were: the Union of Municipalities, the Montreal and Quebec City Urban Communities, the nine Regional Development Councils (one for each administrative region of the province), the Quebec Association of Regional Development Councils (CRDAO), and the Quebec City-Levis District Branch of the Canadian United Nations Association.

By the end of June, the Secretariat was fully equipped and kept in touch with the above groups. A symposium was held on July 3. Each group clearly identified its themes, its approach to participation and its plan of activities.

Representatives of the Quebec Secretariat then fanned out throughout Quebec to meet the people, ranging as far as Abitibi-Temiscaming in the Northwest, the Magdalen Islands at the far eastern end of the province, the Eastern townships, the Saguenay-Lake St. John district and the St. Maurice Valley. All of Quebec was consulted so the entire population could express its preferences on human settlements, be they urban, semi-urban or rural. No issue was left untouched during this vast operation.

This was concluded on October 15, when the participants submitted their reports. Fifteen different reports summed up the solutions the people of Quebec want to submit for consideration in Vancouver in 1976.

At the same time the Quebec Secretariat distributed information materials on Habitat to the general public. Secretariat representatives were involved in many regional, provincial and national symposia, conventions and meetings. These activities relate not only to its own work, but of course to the total Canadian contribution to the United Nations Conference.

Quebec report

Two meetings with the participating organizations, on October 23 and 28, laid down the groundwork for the Quebec Report. Their recommendations deal with subjects as diverse as land use, decentralization and municipal taxation.

On October 23, some thirty representatives from eight Regional Development Councils and from the CRDAO met to draw up a summary of their respective briefs. On October 28, a smaller group of fifteen, spokesmen for five other organizations, met with the same purpose. In November and part of December, the Quebec brief was drafted based on all suggestions made by the people through the representative organizations.

This synthesis was to be finalized through work sessions lasting until mid-December. At that time the report will be submitted both to the Quebec Government, through its Minister of Municipal Affairs, and to the Canadian Secretariat.

In the meantime, the Quebec Secretariat is planning its January to June activities.

The effort provided by all Quebecers to fulfill the aims of the Conference is noteworthy. The interest shown in Habitat in Quebec will bear fruit in terms of the Quebec contribution to the overall Canadian presentation at Vancouver.

Newfoundland: reaching the outports

Rural Newfoundlanders now have a voice in Habitat through the assistance of the provincial government. This will be provided by the Community Learning Centres Project developed by the Extension Service, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's.

Habitat has particular relevance to traditional regional preferences in life style, and it is difficult to reach a good sampling of opinion — especially from isolated areas. So the Extension Service, through the Community Learning Centres Project, has created a process which enables people to define possibilities for growth, and transmit their desires and proposals to responsible organizations in a clear and effective manner.

People who live in isolated communities are not normally reached for reaction to programs like Habitat. These are the university's target audience.

A network of 36 community learning centres will be used by the Extension Service within Newfoundland and Labrador. At the Habitat public meeting in St. John's on October 28, 1975, people from rural areas voiced their opinions though they were not there in person.

Separate meetings were held in each Community Learning Centre to discuss the general question of human habitation. Interesting and innovative responses were videotaped and a composite tape made. The tape was then used to begin discussion and focus attention on rural Newfoundland as part of the public meeting.

The major concerns of rural Newfoundlanders were: a better educational system; services of a doctor or nurse in the well equipped clinics that already exist; improved transportation and communication systems; and the expansion of water and sewage systems into rural areas.

The university program has not ended with the showing of its videotape. The public meeting was also videotaped and is now being taken back to each Community Learning Centre.

As a result of this process, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing of Newfoundland has agreed to accept and view all films on human settlements problems as expressed by rural Newfoundlanders.

One-day seminars will also be held in communities throughout the province on the following topics:

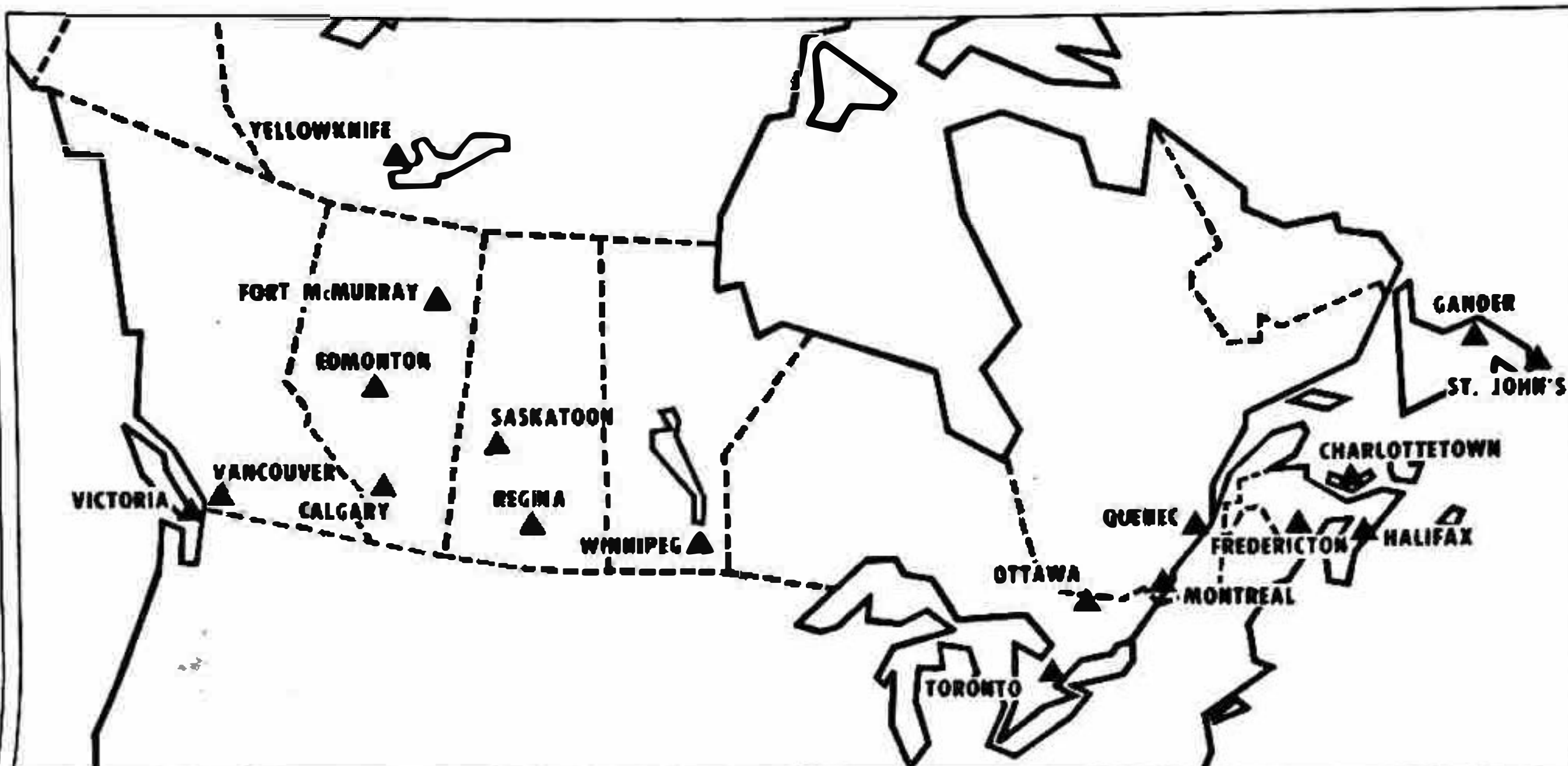
- 1) provision of water and sewage systems to small communities;
- 2) problems of housing in rural communities; and
- 3) problems of marine and road transportation in rural Newfoundland.

These seminars are being held as a direct response to the identification of the needs of the people. They will also give the local people an opportunity for face to face discussions with provincial officials who will be attending from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Through Memorial's innovative use of technology, people in rural areas now have a direct link with provincial government.

For further information, please contact Mr. George Lee, Project Director, Extension Service, Memorial University, tel. 753-1200 (3472).

Pre and post-conference study tours arranged



A program of study tours across Canada is being arranged for members of the national delegations to Habitat, participants in the Habitat Forum, and other observers.

The Canadian government is organizing this program with the full cooperation of the provinces.

Most delegates will have only limited time available for participation in such tours. The program has therefore been limited to the period

immediately preceding Habitat (May 18-26) and a similar period after Habitat (June 12-23).

Human settlements issues and responses vary enormously from one part of Canada to another. The size of the country, and the limited time available, make it impossible to develop a study tour based on visits to widely-separated and sometimes remote locations, even though these may be of great interest.

The study tours will therefore focus on the capital city and other major population centres in each of the ten provinces, and on Yellowknife (seat of Government of the Northwest Territories) and Ottawa, the national capital.

While some delegates may be able to participate fully in the study tours, others will wish to limit their participation to one or more centres of particular interest. The study tours are being planned to permit this flexibility.

Similarly, many delegates will probably be able to reduce the cost of their participation in the study tours by including the centres they will visit as "stopovers" in their air travel to and from their own country and Vancouver.

In January, the Canadian Habitat Secretariat will publish and distribute a study tour brochure outlining the program and how to participate in these study tours.

New Canadian Secretariat rapidly taking shape

The reorganization of the Canadian Participation and Host Secretariats into a new Canadian Habitat Secretariat has been progressing rapidly since the appointment of Jim MacNeill, Secretary of the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, as Commissioner-General of Habitat for Canada. Legislation setting up the new Habitat Secretariat is expected to be passed by Parliament before the Christmas recess.

Other major appointments are those of Dr. Hugh Keenleyside as Associate Commissioner-General and Creighton Douglas as Director-General of the Host Program.

Dr. Keenleyside, a distinguished former Canadian diplomat, will be based in Vancouver. Until his appointment, he played a major role in the public participation process for Habitat by serving as Honorary Chairman of the Canadian National Committee.

Mr. Douglas came from Information Canada where he served since 1971 as Director of the Expositions Branch. He replaces John Dougan of External Affairs who is being reassigned to a diplomatic post abroad.

Half of the Secretariat staff is already based in Vancouver and the

rest will follow from Ottawa within the next six months. Mr. Douglas is expected to move to Vancouver in January. Mr. MacNeill has moved his offices from Urban Affairs headquarters at the LaSalle Academy to the 8th floor of the Lord Elgin Plaza on Slater Street near Canada's Confederation Square.

The role of the Host Program will continue to be that of maintaining overall responsibility for the physical and technical facilities as

well as the accommodation, protocol, and welcoming arrangements being set up for the 5,000 official delegates and journalists coming to the Habitat Conference. The Participation Program will continue to develop the Canadian position for the Habitat Conference, assist the NGOs, supervise the production of four audio-visual presentations as part of Canada's presentation at Habitat, as well as promote and publicize Habitat domestically and abroad.

NGO conference agenda and workshops

December 11-13, 1975, Ottawa

AGENDA:

Thursday, December 11

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies:

The Hon. Barney Danson,
Minister of State for Urban
Affairs

Mr. Enrique Peñalosa,
Secretary General of Habitat

Accountability Session: Panels include:

Senator S.L. Buckwold, Chair-
man, Canadian National Com-
mittee

Mr. Geoffrey Grenville-Wood,
Chairman, Canadian NGO Part-
icipation Group

Mr. J.W. MacNeill, Commis-
sioner General, Canadian
Habitat Secretariat

Dr. C.I. Jackson, Director Gen-
eral, Canadian Participation
Program

Mr. Enrique Peñalosa,
Secretary General of Habitat

Mr. J.G. van Putten, Chairman,
International Committee of
NGOs for Habitat

Friday, December 12

9:15 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Workshops

Saturday, December 13

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Workshop
Report Finalization

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Plenary

2:30 p.m. — Plenary

WORKSHOPS

Workshops will explore the following topics, beginning with a general stock-taking of the existing situation, identifying objectives of settlements policies, and then examining ways in which these objectives can be met.

1. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS POLICIES, STRATEGY AND PLANNING

1) How can social, cultural, environmental and spatial aspects be integrated into the economic aspects of human settlements

planning at the national level? At the regional level? At the local level?

2) How to match planning to local needs.

3) How to create a coherent planning process among the many levels of government.

4) (a) How to cope with the challenge of population growth and urbanization.

(b) Should rural communities be revitalized? How?

(c) Do we need a rural development policy? What about the location of future settlements?

2. INSTITUTIONS, MANAGEMENT AND FINANCING

1) What has been your experience in relation with the policy making structure on human settlements issues? Can there be any improvement?

2) How can effective co-ordination between various institutions and agencies be improved?

3) How can political decision-making, the planning process and settlements management best be co-ordinated?

4) What about financing? Where is the financial burden now? Where should it be? How do we get there?

3. HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURES AND SERVICES

HOUSING: Investment levels, technology, use of resources and environmental adaptation.

1) What are standards for "good housing" in Canada?

2) How to keep the cost of Canadian capital, land, building materials, labour services within reach.

3) What are the alternatives to the single family detached dwelling?

INFRASTRUCTURES: Problems of water supply, sewage, and waste disposal.

1) What kind of public transportation facilities are needed in cities? In rural areas?

2) How to assure an adequate road network.

3) What about energy supply for present and future needs?

SOCIAL SERVICES: Including education services, health care, recreational and cultural services, social welfare services.

1) How to effectively reach all the people with services, particularly low income groups, small settlements, and rural areas.

2) What are the minimum standards for these services? Who should decide?

4. LAND USE AND OWNERSHIP

1) What should criteria for subdividing and allocating land for planned urban growth be?

2) Who should have effective control of the use of land?

3) How to capture for the benefit of society the value added to land as a result of public action?

(a) How to go about acquiring land for public purposes?

(b) What about the preservation of agricultural land?

(c) Is land banking a viable possibility? What is the experience? What about land freeze? What is the experience?

(d) Where do the land claims of native peoples fit in this picture? What are the alternatives?

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1) What are the models of participation today?

2) How can we involve the citizen more closely? Does the individual citizen care?

Humanizing of social life through maintenance of some freedom of action.

3) The role of cooperatives, rural, urban, housing, food, agriculture in providing means of public participation.

4) Consultative machinery at local, municipal, regional and national levels.

Are NGOs the only vehicle for citizen participation?

Are there other structures — more formal? less formal?

5) What is meant by public participation?

— when stated by government?

— when stated by NGOs?

— when stated by individuals?

Are the aims of these parties the same? What about getting participation in decision-making by those most affected? How can this be effectively accomplished?

6) How should government be held accountable for decisions taken? Only at elections?

6. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

1) How does Habitat fit into a movement towards a more equitable distribution of the world's resources? And into the move toward a New International Economic Order?

2) What can Habitat do with regard to this issue?

3) What should Canada's role be in the international context of Habitat?

4) Canada's policy with regard to the rural to urban migration problem in developing countries. Are we (CIDA) on the right track? What else could be done?

5) What about the role of NGOs regarding these issues. Are they moving in the right direction?

NGO conference continued from page 1

On December 11, 12 and 13, however, NGOs are concerned with making recommendations and resolutions on specific issues and with proposing possible solutions to existing problems. We need now to be looking at very concrete situations resulting from existing policies and past approaches.

In each workshop, the conference hopes to examine the philosophies, the policies and decisions needed to achieve these objectives. Discussions must take place in a relevant context which is centered on the present-day concerns of citizens. On the question of land, for example, the conference may well ask how we have arrived at a point where there is a land crisis in Canada. What policies, or lack of policies, have created the critical situation in the Vancouver region? Has the British Columbia land freeze provided a viable solution? Is it a solution or a stop-gap measure? What do people from Montreal think? What about Toronto and Pickering? What

relation does the issue of land use and ownership have to do with Canada's capacity to continue being one of the major world net exporters of food?

On the question of public participation, the conference will examine how citizens, individually, in small and in large groups, have been involved in the decision-making process to date. Has Government been responsive to citizens' needs or has it been too conscious of special interest groups in setting policies? Is there a difference in experience depending upon cities, regions and provinces? What can these differences teach us and therefore what processes and structures need to be created to permit effective public participation? The definition of the term "public participation" requires examination. Government representatives may well be asked to define this concept according to their perspective. What do NGOs think participation should entail? What expectations are held

concerning participation by individuals?

The conference needs to examine the consequences of past neglect, lack of foresight and unplanned development. We must avoid glossing over the problems of the every-day kind, the issues that affect each of us most directly. How the individual moves daily from his home to his work place is a problem for today; it is not part of some future grand design. The issue of whether rural-based communities will continue to survive must be met head on now; it cannot await a global master plan. The land claims of Canada's native peoples will not simmer on the back burner while we set our sights on a human settlements holy grail.

A human settlements policy for Canada is vitally needed. But, it can never be put together unless and until some of the critical issues, some highly political and emotionally charged, are tackled first.

Initial distribution of Bulletin No. 7 includes a copy, in English or French, of a UN Habitat publication, *Audio Visual*, describing progress internationally on audio visual presentations for Habitat. The Canadian Habitat Secretariat has a limited number of extra copies in English and French. Copies may also be obtained (in English, French or Spanish) from

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