

BACKGROUND TO THE MID-CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR CONFERENCE

A two-part national conference to examine the need for the creation of an economic development, land and resources use plan for the urbanization, industrialization, populating and general development of Mid-Canada will be convened during 1969 and 1970 under the sponsorship of the following universities - Alberta, British Columbia, Guelph, Lakehead, Laurentian, Laval, Manitoba, McGill, Memorial, Montreal, Saskatchewan. The Government of Ontario is one of the original sponsors.

The Conference is under the Distinguished Patronage of His Excellency The Right Honourable Roland Michener, C.C., C.D., Governor-General of Canada. The Conference is also honoured to have as Patrons the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, P.C., O.B.E., M.A., LL.D. and the Honourable Leslie Frost, P.C., Q.C., LL.D., D.C.L.

The membership of the Convening Board of the Conference is made up of the following persons: Professor J. Jameson Bond, University of Alberta; Professor Robert Bone, University of Saskatchewan; Professor J. D. Chapman, University of British Columbia; Professor Yves Dube, Laval University; Professor J. C. Gilson, University of Manitoba; Mr. Christian de Laet, Secretary-General, Canadian Council of Resource Ministers; Mr. Ian Macdonald, Deputy Treasurer, Province of Ontario; Mr. David Morgan, Lakehead University; Professor E. R. W. Neale, Memorial University of Newfoundland; Professor Norman Pearson, University of Guelph; Mr. James Ramsay, Department of Trade and Development, Province of Ontario; Mr. Richard Rohmer, Q.C.; Mr. Norman Simpson; Professor W. Y. Watson, Laurentian University;

Professor F. T. M. White, McGill University.

The function of the Convening Board is to determine the objectives, the format and all general policy for the creation and administration and conduct of the Conference.

The objects of the Conference have been defined by the Convening Board to be:

"To examine the practicability of a continuing long range economic development and land use plan for the urbanization, industrialization populating and general development of Mid-Canada; and to this end to use the concept of a Mid-Canada Development Corridor as a focal point. And if such a long range economic development and land use plan is found to be both feasible and practicable, then to formulate recommendations and suggested course of action to be delivered to the Federal and Provincial Governments, to financial, commercial and industrial sectors of the National Community and to Canadian Universities."

The Mid-Canada Development Corridor Concept includes plans for new cities, harbours, railways, industries, roads to be built over the next 20 to 100 years to receive part of the 100 million population growth expected in Canada by 2067.

The Concept envisages a coast-to-coast development corridor from two to five hundred miles in width running from Newfoundland through Labrador, northern Quebec, south of James Bay, then northwest

across the unopened Ontario clay belt, through Northern Manitoba with a spur into Churchill, Saskatchewan and Alberta where the Corridor splits into three parts, one going into the Northwest Territories up the Mackenzie River Valley to the Arctic Ocean at Inuvik and Tuktoyatuk, another into the Yukon Territory and the third into the Prince Rupert sector of British Columbia.

While the Mid-Canada Development Corridor Concept will be used as a focal and starting point for the Conference, it may well be that the Conference will find that, in principle, a completely different approach to a Plan for the Mid-North should be taken. Thus the Conference is in no way bound or committed to the Development Corridor Concept. Should the recommendations and suggested courses of action as formulated by the Conference support the creation of a Mid-Canada Development Plan it is intended that the Federal, Provincial (exclusive of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) and Territorial Governments should prepare a Plan in co-operation with the Universities of Canada and Canadian controlled private enterprise.

The Convening Board invited Richard Rohmer, Q.C. to be the Chairman of the Conference, and President of the Mid-Canada Development Corridor Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation controlled by three of the sponsoring Universities. Professor Norman Pearson, Chairman of ~~The~~ Centre For Resource Development, University of Guelph is Secretary of the Foundation. Mr. Adam H. Zimmerman, C.A., Vice-President and Comptroller of Noranda Mines Limited is Treasurer. The officers of the Foundation serve without

remuneration.

The function of the Foundation is to provide the corporate structure through which the Conference funds will be raised and all staff and administrative expenses will be met. The Foundation has been qualified for income tax exemptions, and all payments and donations to it will be deductible.

The Conference will be held in two separate sessions. The first will be August 20th, 21st and 22nd of 1969 and the second in August of 1970. Field trips through the Corridor and to Siberia and Northern Scandinavia will be taken in the period between Sessions.

The First Session of the Mid-Canada Development Corridor Conference will be held at Lakehead University.

Field trips through the Corridor will occur during the months of September, October and November of this year and will be of approximately ten days duration.

The field trip to Siberia and Northern Scandinavia is planned for June of 1970, with a time requirement of about two weeks. This trip will be optional for all Conference participants, whereas the Corridor field trip is essential for all members.

The Second Session of the Conference will be held during August of 1970 at a place in the Corridor and on dates yet to be selected.

At the First Session of the Conference the problems - as opposed to the solutions-related to urbanization, industrialization, transportation, resource use and many other factors concerning the growth, development and planning of the Mid-North will be discussed.

The Conference will deal with eight major topics and will be divided for its ongoing work into eight Groups each assigned to one topic as well as to consideration of the general theme of the Conference.

Those Canadians who present papers at the First Session will provide their respective Groups and each Group Leader with a point of departure. While some of those who deliver papers may not be "of the Mid-North" all of them have a full understanding of the growth problems confronting Canada and are fully qualified to speak on the subjects which they have accepted.

Each of the Group Leaders will be fully experienced in Canada's Mid-North and will be able to supply the background and direction necessary to best guide his Group in its work over the year's period.

The topics which will be considered and the Conference Groups which are formed to deal with them are:

Urbanization and Industrialization

Transportation and Communication

Environment

Human and Economic Factors

Resources

Constitutional and Jurisdictional Matters

Technology

Financing and Trade Implications

Some of those who have agreed to prepare opening papers are: Dr. O. M. Solandt, Chairman, Science Council of Canada - Technology; Father John Page, University of Manitoba - Environment; the Honourable Dufferin Roblin, P.C., Executive Vice-President of Canadian Pacific Investments Limited - Human and Economic Factors.

Other distinguished Canadians have been and will be approached by the Convening Board to deliver papers on the remaining topics.

The Corridor Field Trips during the Fall of this year will be designed to meet the interest of each specific Group. It is anticipated that some of the major points to be visited will be the west coast of Newfoundland, Churchill Falls, Schefferville, Val d'Or, Rouyn, Lakehead, Moosonee, Churchill, Thompson, Hay River, Yellowknife, Peace River region, Prince Rupert, Whitehorse, Inuvik and Tuktoyatuk. There will be many other places of special interest to be seen.

The Field Trip to Siberia and Northern Scandinavia will be for the purpose of observing at first hand urbanization and industrialization experience achieved in areas which are comparable or even more difficult than Canada's Mid-North. The Conference hopes to visit such places as Kirana in Sweden and Norilsk, Irkutsk and other important northern cities in Siberia. A few days at Expo '70 in Japan on the way home will add to the trip.

At the Second Session of the Conference (to be held in August of 1970 - place and dates to be selected) each Group will formulate and present recommendations and suggested courses of action pertaining to the Group's topic and to the general theme of the Conference. The report of each Group will then be discussed by the Conference in plenary session.

The recommendations and findings of the Conference will be recorded, published and distributed on a nationwide basis in accordance with the Objects of the Conference.

There will be one hundred and fifty seats at the Mid-Canada Development Corridor Conference. Twenty-five of these will be for Canadian Universities, fifty for representatives of the Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments, and seventy-five for representatives of Canadian industrial, commercial and financial firms, labour organizations, the professions and spokesmen for the Indian and Eskimos of Canada. Because of the limited number of seats the invitations to participate will be on a selective basis.

It is believed that the work of the Conference and the ultimate establishment of a Plan for the Mid-North should be exclusively undertaken by Canadians. Accordingly invitations to participate in the Conference will be extended only to Canadian citizens and corporations and other organizations which are Canadian controlled.

On the other hand provision will be made for "observers" whose origins or interests may not be Canadian.

The funding of the Conference will be principally by payments received from participating firms and governmental departments

each of which will be asked to pay the costs of its Conference representative. These costs are now budgeted at Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars which includes all transportation, accomodation and other expenses for both Sessions of the Conference including the Corridor Field Trip. In addition a further amount of Fifteen Hundred Dollars is requested which funds will be utilized to support the attendance of the representaives of the participating Universities.

The cost of the Field Trip to Siberia and Northern Scandinavia (which is optional) is estimated at a further Two Thousand Dollars.

All payments are tax deductible.

In addition to the monies already received from participating corporations the Government of Ontario has made a substantial contribution. It is hoped that the Federal and other Provincial Governments will see fit to make comparable grants in addition to sending representatives to the Conference.

The letters patent of Mid-Canada Development Corridor Foundation, Inc., provide that when the work of the Foundation is finished any funds then remaining are to be distributed to Canadian Universities for the furtherance of research into the continuing development of Canada's Mid-North.

Provision will be made for those of the press, television, film and radio media who wish to cover any aspect of the Conference including the field trips through the Mid-Canada Development Corridor, Siberia and Scandinavia.

An Advisory Council to the Conference has been established. The first members of this group are Mr. N. R. Crump, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Pacific Railway; Mr. Arnold Hart, Chairman, Bank of Montreal; Mr. E. C. Bovey, President, Northern and Central Gas Company; Mr. C. P. Baker, President, Foundation Company of Canada Limited; Brig. H. W. Love, Executive Director, The Arctic Institute of North America. The Advisory Council will be canvassed from time to time in order that their opinions can be obtained in relation to Conference policy and other matters. Their counsel will be most necessary to the success of the Conference.

The Convening Board intends to make this examination of the potential of our Mid-North the most important and significant ever undertaken on the future growth of Canada.

Canada will have an additional one hundred million citizens one hundred years from now. Canada today has the technological ability, the human resources, the wealth to embark on a planned scheme for the opening up, urbanization, industrialization and populating of the massive habitable regions which lie in Mid-Canada so that those one hundred million will not have to remain huddled against the border of the United States, so that the incredible treasures of our natural resources can become accessible, so that they can be taken from above or from under the ground, processed and made by our people into manufactured products providing employment for our citizens and finished goods for competitive consumption in the expanding markets of the world.

Canada can continue to grow in its Mid-North sporadically, without plan, virtually by accident of discovery of resources; or it can grown in accordance with a far reaching plan of economic development and land resources use which will provide for new cities, new transportation links, new methods of climatic control, new environmental techniques, new harbours, new technology of all kinds and, finally, a new common objective or National Purpose for the people of Canada.

January 30, 1969.