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Cover

Mid-Canada

Development Corridor

Conference

a concept

in action

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Mid-Canada

Development Corridor

Conference

CONVENING BOARD:

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- Mr. Richard Rohmer, Chairman, Mid-Canada Development Corridor Conference
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PATRONS:

Under the Distinguished Patronage of
His Excellency The Right Honourable
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Objective of the
Conference

To examine the advantages of establishing a
Canada-wide policy and plan for the
development of Canada's Mid North.

(overfold of the map)

The National Purpose for Canada

"I believe that the people of Canada know that their heritage is in the Mid North and they want to see it grow and develop and want to have a part in that development. I believe that the Canadian people seek a national purpose, a purpose which transcends regional disputes and language barriers; a purpose which transcends our constant concern or fear about encroachment on our sovereignty from the United States. No other nation in the world has such a challenge or has such an opportunity."

The map (open)

Copy, inset:

The Mid-Canada Development Corridor

"... a coast-to-coast development corridor, from 200 to 500 miles in width, running from Newfoundland through Labrador, northern Quebec south of James Bay, then across Northwestern Ontario through Northern Manitoba (with a spur into Churchill), Saskatchewan and Alberta. Here, the Corridor splits into three parts: one going into the Northwest Territories up the MacKenzie River to the Arctic Ocean at Inuvik and Tuktoyatuk: another into the Yukon Territory: and a third into the Prince Rupert sector of British Columbia."

Copy: The Concept

of the Mid-Canada Development Corridor

Canada, in the next century, will have an additional 100,000,000 citizens. Where will they live? Where will they work? Will they simply increase the concentration of today's population that is physically and economically oriented to the United States border? Or will a significant number of them choose to live in model cities and towns planned from the ground up with people in mind, that will be built in the rich vast and beautiful land of Canada's Mid North?

The starting point of the Conference relates to the Mid-Canada Development Corridor Concept originated by the Conference Chairman as a possible long-range economic development, land use and resources use plan for Canada's habitable Mid-North. However, the Conference is in no way bound to the Corridor Concept, and might ultimately emerge with an entirely different approach to a policy and plan for the Mid-North.

Inherent in the Mid-Canada Development Corridor Concept is the belief that only with a policy and plan can intelligent and rational development take place. We in Canada are attempting to meet the problems of developing our North in a fragmented way. Real success will only be achieved when the necessary resources ^{of} ~~and~~ our Federal and Provincial Governments, our industry and our society can

be channelled into a recognized, co-ordinated, and suitably financed program - a Canada wide policy and plan.

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Montage of Press
clippings re the
"Concept" as put
forward by Rohmer

Copy: A concept..... in action

The total feasibility of a Mid-Canada Development Corridor, as conceived by Richard Rohmer, Q.C., hinged upon one primary factor: transportation. Could Canada build an east-west railway through the Mid-North, one that would pick up and connect existing north-south railways and create a transportation grid for the movement of heavy bulk materials over long distances in all weather?

And if this could be done, could the corridor -- assisted by the transportation grid -- support new long-cycle towns and cities, new manufacturing and other industries, new ports, airfields, communications systems, highways, pipe lines and all of the facilities essential to permanent urbanization?

One of the largest engineering firms in the world -- The Acres Group -- was retained to research this question in detail. Acres answer was "yes" and it was contained in a study that is today regarded as a basic inventory of Canada's assets: its minerals-oil, gas, agriculture, hydro potential, population, tourism, railways, air services, pipe lines, timber, climate and other factors. From Rohmer's original concept of a Mid-Canada Development Corridor, underscored by the extensive research of Acres, a concept is evolving.

Montage of news
clips announcing
plans for
conferences, field
trips, formation of
Foundation.

Mid-Canada Development

Corridor Conference

First Session - August 18th to 22nd, 1969 - Lakehead University

Trips through Corridor - September, October, November 1969

Visit to northern Scandinavia and Siberia - June 1970 - optional

Second Session - August 1970

150* Senior representatives of sponsoring universities, business, industry and government from all parts of Canada will participate in the Mid-Canada Development Corridor Conference.

First Session:

The first session will be devoted primarily to the consideration of the problems related to the future development of the middle north. Keynote speakers and panelists will give papers under the following general headings:

- (1) Urbanization and Industrialization
- (2) Resources (Human and Natural)
- (3) Transportation and Communications
- (4) Human and Environmental Factors
- (5) Financial and Trade Implications

Each of the conference participants will be assigned to a discussion group of approximately 20 people. Each group will have participants from government, industry and universities in it. Group discussions will occur after the presentation ^{of} ~~after~~ each major topic. Discussions will be lead by ~~a~~ persons who due to their special skills or experience are considered to be the

most knowledgeable in Canada concerning the Mid North region.

Trips through Corridor

During the September, October and November 1969 period Conference members will be asked to take part in 7 to 10 day field trips through the Corridor area. Groups of 20 persons will make five or six stops, at carefully chosen places in the Corridor, in order to familiarize themselves with living, working and other conditions at first hand. Group Leaders at the Lakehead University Session and for the tours are being chosen from Canadians with the most experience and knowledge of the Mid-North.

Visit to Siberia

It is planned that in May or June of 1970 approximately 50 Conference members will be able to tour Siberia and Northern Scandinavia to see, at first hand, developments in these countries. Arrangements for this tour are somewhat dependant on the geo-political climate at the time.

Second Session:

In August of 1970 the Conference will reconvene, at a place in the Corridor and on dates yet to be determined. The intention of the Second Session is to create recommendations and conclusions which will then be published and put forward to Government and to the people of Canada.

We feel that the discussion of stimulating topics and ideas by university, government and industrial leaders at the two formal Sessions of the Conference, as well as during the tours through the Corridor, will produce a most exciting "cross pollenization" learning effect for all participants.

- * 25 speakers, panelists and group discussion leaders.
- 25 Federal, Provincial and Territorial representatives.
- 25 Canadian university representatives.
- 75 leaders of Canadian industry, business and labour.
- Total - 150 participants.

Provision will also be made for press, television, film and radio media wishing to cover the Conference.

Mid-Canada Development

Corridor Foundation Inc.,

Organization and administration of the Mid-Canada Development Corridor Conference is in the hands of a non-profit corporation MID-CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR FOUNDATION, INC., which is also the fund-raising vehicle through which the Conference will receive its monies.

The expenses of all participants, such as travelling and hotel accommodations, will be paid by the Mid-Canada Development Corridor Conference. Financing for the Conference is being provided by contributions from the business-industry-commerce group, with important support from participating governments. The letters patent of Mid-Canada Development Corridor Foundation, Inc., provide that when the work of the Foundation is finished, any funds then remaining will be divided among the sponsoring Universities -- to be used for the furtherance of research into the continuing development of Canada's Mid-North.

Chairman - Mr. Richard Rohmer, Q.C.

Secretary - Mr. Norman Pearson, University of Guelph

Treasurer - Mr. A. H. Zimmerman, Vice-President, Noranda Mines

Directors: Mr. David Morgan, Lakehead University
Mr. Norman Pearson, University of Guelph
Mr. Norman Simpson, Acres Limited
Mr. Richard Rohmer, Q.C., Rohmer and Swasey
Dr. W. Y. Watson, Laurentian University

An Advisory Council to the Conference has been appointed from

among the invited participants. Council members will be canvassed from time to time in order to obtain their opinions on Conference policy and other matters.