

35 miles. Within that area there are 57 municipalities and a total population of about 600,000. Industrial development in the Region is limited, a good proportion of the work force being employed by the federal government or associated with government functions.

Although the terms of reference of the National Capital Commission are "to prepare plans for and assist in the development, conservation and improvement of the National Capital Region in order that the nature and character of the seat of the Government of Canada may be in accordance with its national significance", it should be noted that the Commission does not have jurisdictional authority over any of the municipal or regional authorities or the two provincial governments concerned. Most matters affecting the municipalities — such as planning, zoning, land use, building density, public transit, parking and construction of streets, arterial roads and highways — are within their sole jurisdiction, subject only to provincial government approval, so that the National Capital Commission in its development efforts depends essentially upon the co-operation of each municipality and provincial government. As a result of this co-operation, the cities of Ottawa and Hull and their surrounding areas have, as a whole, become an efficient and aesthetically satisfying place in which to carry on the nation's business and a fitting symbol of Canada's cultural and linguistic values.

In recent years, the efforts of the Commission have focused on the development of a unified and lively core for the Capital. At a constitutional conference in Ottawa in 1969, the federal and provincial first ministers declared "the cities of Ottawa and Hull and their surrounding areas" to be the Canadian Capital Region. Almost immediately, work began to remove the longstanding economic disparity between Hull and Ottawa. Fifty-nine acres have been acquired in Hull for a federal building program to house various government departments. These 59 acres include 44 acquired in 1972 by the Commission from the E.B. Eddy Company. Within weeks of this acquisition, pulpwood piles and mills began to vanish from the landscape and a long-cherished goal came at least partially into view: an Ottawa - Hull necklace of park, promenade and rushing water encircling Parliament Hill. Also in 1972, work neared completion on the new Portage Bridge linking Ottawa and Hull and the new Airport Parkway from the airport to downtown Ottawa - Hull was officially opened.

The recreational amenities of the Region, and especially those in Ottawa and Hull, have been developed for people to use and enjoy. To the advantages of the well-known scenic driveways and large parks and playgrounds have recently been added the pleasures of a four-mile ice skating rink in winter and boating in summer along the Rideau Canal through the heart of Ottawa, maple sugar shanties, large garden allotments where families may hoe and chat in open air and sun, and 50 miles of looping bicycle paths winding past waterways and through pleasant wooded areas. Public concerts in the parks, walking tours, attractive pedestrian malls and museums are there for the participation of all Canadians and their visitors and the Region has become a centre of national significance in which all may have a sense of pride and possession.

1.5 Preservation of the environment

Over the past several years Canadians have become increasingly aware of the problems of environmental quality management. The deteriorating quality of Canada's waters, its air and its soils, the noise and congestion of urban life, and the exploitation of its mineral resources, its fisheries and forests and its wildlife became vitally important to many concerned and conscientious citizens. Man was clearly having a greater and greater impact on his natural environment and yet he had no definite idea of what the delicate ecosystem could bear in the way of man's intrusion. A range of problems relating to the wise use of the natural environment became one of the major issues of the late 1960s and promises to remain so through the rest of the century. Obviously, an issue of this magnitude required an immediate response from all governments in Canada. It was vital to develop a consistent philosophy regarding man's place in the Canadian and world environments and to develop a series of policies that could give effect to this philosophy.

The goals of the federal government in this respect are, on the one hand, to ensure that all Canadians have access to a style of life befitting a nation rich in natural resources and, on the other hand, to safeguard these natural resources for future use by the present generation and the generations to follow. To this end, the Department of the Environment has been established to help ensure the protection, preservation and enhancement of Canada's environment while encouraging efficient use of its natural resources.