

The capital value of fixed assets administered by the board amounted to \$436.0 million at December 31, 1973, \$471.6 million in 1974 and \$505.4 million in 1975. These figures include expenditures on all buildings, machinery and durable plant improvements less deductions for depreciation, and represent a fair approximation of the properties' present value. During 1975 the federal government advanced \$27.0 million to the National Harbours Board for capital expenditures of \$15.1 million at Prince Rupert, \$9.5 million at Vancouver, \$1.6 million at Churchill, \$131,000 at Sept-Îles, and \$646,571 at Halifax.

Harbour commissions. Eleven of Canada's major multi-purpose harbours are administered by harbour commissions, federal bodies corporate operating semi-autonomously under the general supervision of the Ministry of Transport. These ports include The Lakehead (Thunder Bay), Windsor, Hamilton, Toronto, Oshawa and Belleville, Ont. on the Great Lakes; Winnipeg-St. Boniface, Man. on the Red River-Lake Winnipeg System; Fraser River (New Westminster), North Fraser, Nanaimo and Port Alberni, BC. The harbour commissions include municipal as well as federal appointees, and are responsible for general administration, operation and maintenance as well as for close liaison with the Ministry of Transport and with the provincial, regional and local interests they serve.

Public harbours. More than 300 public harbours are directly administered by the Canadian Marine Transportation Administration. Harbour masters and wharfingers at these ports are mostly fees-of-office employees appointed by the Minister of Transport. Some of the larger public harbours are Baie-Comeau, Que.; Corner Brook and Come By Chance, Nfld.; Sydney and Port Hawkesbury, NS; Sault Ste Marie and Goderich, Ont.; and Victoria, Kitimat and Tasu, BC.

Government wharves. Many of the government wharves for which the Marine Transportation Administration is responsible are located within public harbours and are used for commercial traffic including auto/truck ferries. Some major interprovincial federal ferry terminals are administered by the Canadian Surface Transportation Administration. Provincial governments administer ferry wharves which are part of an intraprovincial service.

The Ministry of Transport is responsible for planning and providing adequate public port facilities to serve commercial interests and to improve or phase out facilities in response to economic growth or changes in traffic patterns resulting from new industries, trends to new types of ships and new developments in cargo handling. Specialized deep-water terminals for bulk commodities, particularly coal and oil, are also provided when needed under long-term full cost recovery agreements with individual shippers. These often complement related development programs sponsored by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

Rates and charges. The ministry establishes and collects fees from users of port facilities, and all rates assessed by ports under federal jurisdiction are subject to ministry approval. Harbour dues, cargo rates, wharfage, berthage and other charges on goods and vessels are subject to some regional and local variation and are designed to recover a reasonable share of the annual federal investment in Canada's harbours through the Department of Public Works as well as the Ministry of Transport and its component agencies.

Private facilities. In addition to public facilities, there are extensive wharf and associated cargo handling facilities owned by private companies, particularly specialized facilities for handling coal, iron ore, petroleum, grain and pulpwood. At Sept-Îles, Que. the Iron Ore Company of Canada owns and operates extensive facilities to load pelletized iron ore onto ocean-going and Seaway vessels. Port-Cartier harbour was constructed by mining interests in the early 1960s and through large diversified investments of private capital has also become one of Canada's leading export grain terminals. At Port Hawkesbury, NS, Gulf Oil Canada Limited operates a terminal to unload large supertankers; in Quebec City