

daylight saving time; in the other provinces authority is left to the municipalities. By general agreement, daylight saving time set at one hour earlier than standard time is in force from the last Sunday in April until the last Sunday in October.

1.6 Land use

The lands directorate of the environment department (Environment Canada) investigates from a national perspective problems of land use and management. It provides information on land use, socio-economic and environmental concerns relating to the land resource, and means of dealing with these concerns. A federal policy on land use provides guidelines to federal departments and agencies. The directorate undertakes research on the impact of federal policies and programs on land use and prepares publications on resource lands. Studies have investigated agricultural land-use change, mining and the environment, planning land for energy, and the agricultural use of marginal lands. Solutions to land problems have been analyzed with publications on land legislation in Prince Edward Island and the impact of British Columbia's agricultural land reserves.

The directorate operates a Canada land inventory (CLI). Under federal-provincial agreements, all settled lands have been classified according to their capabilities for agriculture, forestry, recreation, wildlife, sport fishing, and land use (circa 1967). These data, used for regional planning, have been entered into a computerized Canada land data system (CLDS). More than 3,000 CLI maps are available, as well as census data, information on federal land holdings, watershed boundaries and ecological land data. For information not covered by the CLI program, an ecological land classification system has been designed. A northern land-use information mapping program has been developed for Yukon and most of Northwest Territories.

A Canada land-use monitoring program (CLUMP) emphasizes urban-centred regions and prime resource lands. The urban-centred component provides a national perspective on land-use change for fringe areas of urban regions with populations over 25,000. The prime resource component monitors land-use changes in the prime agricultural and fruitland areas.

The directorate is developing an ecodistrict data base for all Canada, with emphasis on Northwest Territories where development potential is high but basic land resource data are often lacking or not integrated.

1.7 Heritage resources

1.7.1 Federal parks

National parks. Canada's national parks system, encompassing more than 129 499 km², is the largest in the world, and will observe its centennial in 1985.

In 1885 the Canadian government reserved from private ownership the mineral hot springs of Sulphur Mountain in what is now Banff National Park. Two years later this reserve was extended and named Rocky Mountains Park, the first federal park in Canada.

Two land reserves in southern British Columbia — Yoho and Glacier — were made by the federal government in 1886, a reserve in the Waterton Lakes area of southern Alberta in 1895, and an area around Jasper, Alta., in 1907. These four western mountain reserves and Rocky Mountains Park formed the nucleus of the national park system after the Dominion Forest Reserves and Parks Act was passed in May 1911. A national parks branch was created to protect, administer and develop the parks.

By 1930 there were nine more national parks. Three added in Ontario were St. Lawrence Islands, Point Pelee and Georgian Bay Islands national parks. Prince Albert National Park in Saskatchewan and Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba were former federal forest reserves. Elk Island National Park near Edmonton was established as a preserve for buffalo and Wood Buffalo National Park, a large area straddling the Alberta-Northwest Territories border, as a refuge for the largest surviving free roaming herd of bison in North America. Two scenic BC areas were preserved — Mount Revelstoke and Kootenay national parks.

Between 1930 and 1969, national parks were established in the four Atlantic provinces: Cape Breton Highlands and Kejimikujik in Nova Scotia; Prince Edward Island National Park in Prince Edward Island; Fundy and Kouchibouguac in New Brunswick; and Terra Nova in Newfoundland. By 1972 eight more were added: two in Quebec; one each in Newfoundland, Ontario, British Columbia and Yukon; and two in Northwest Territories. About 20 million visits a year are now recorded in the national parks. Details of the parks with their description, size and location are given in Table 1.9.

To protect not only unique and outstanding areas of the Canadian land and seascapes but also those representative of its physical, biological, and oceanographic characteristics, 48 distinctive natural regions have been identified by Parks Canada with a view to having national parks eventually in each of these natural regions; 18 regions are now represented. As an example, in 1981 an agreement was signed with the province of Saskatchewan to establish Grasslands National Park, following the expiry of a seven-year exploration program for oil and natural gas.

National marine parks. Canada is bounded by three oceans and has the largest volume of fresh water among all countries of the world. Extension of the national parks system to represent the Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic coasts and inland waters, with identification of the marine natural regions and marine natural history themes is an objective.