

governments and a new National Park may be established by Act of Parliament only after the land for it has been acquired by the provincial government and transferred, together with all its mineral and other resource rights, to the administration of the Federal Government.

National Parks are now under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Natural and Historic Resources Branch and are administered under the National Parks Act enacted in 1930 (RSC 1952, c. 189) and various park regulations. The purpose of the parks and the objectives of their management are set out in that Act, which dedicates the parks to the people of Canada for their "benefit, education and enjoyment" and instructs that they are to be maintained and used so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

An important step in the evolution of National Park administration was taken when all policies regarding the parks were reviewed and consolidated in a statement that was approved by the Government and announced in the House of Commons on Sept. 18, 1964. The main points of this policy statement, which will guide administration and provide objectives for planning and development, are:—

- (1) National Parks are established to preserve for all time the most outstanding and unique natural features of Canada for the benefit, education and enjoyment of Canadians as part of their natural heritage. They are dedicated forever to one use—to serve as sanctuaries of nature for rest, relaxation and enjoyment. No exploitation of resources for any other purpose is permitted. All development must contribute to public enjoyment and conservation of the parks in a natural condition.
- (2) Zoning will be used to guide development and to preserve park values. Visitor services will be grouped generally to visitor service centres, a definition that applies to existing townsites.
- (3) National Parks cannot meet every recreational need; the most appropriate uses are those involving enjoyment of nature and activities and experiences related to the natural scene.
- (4) The Federal Government assumes the cost of administration and protection in the parks and provides basic facilities for public use, such as roads, trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, nature interpretation and utilities. Other facilities beyond basic requirements, such as hotels, motels, restaurants, gas stations, stores and other special services, are provided by private enterprise.
- (5) Park residents and businesses should be in the same economic position as those operating outside the National Parks and this principle governs the approach to charges, rentals and fees. The users of special services such as swimming pools, marinas, golf courses and fully serviced campgrounds should pay the operation and maintenance costs of these publicly operated facilities. In general, permanent and seasonal residents should be limited to persons providing basic services to park visitors and to the park community.
- (6) All decisions affecting public development and the activities of private enterprise must be governed by the national interest as expressed by the National Parks Act.

In addition to the National Parks, which preserve natural features, National Historic Parks and Sites preserve and identify the places important in the history of Canada. The National Historic Parks are military or fur-trading forts that have been preserved, or historic buildings or reconstructions of historic buildings and most of them have museums associated with them. Hundreds of monuments or plaques commemorating personages or events have been erected across the country. A site is declared of national historical significance on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an advisory board of historians representing all provinces.

The National Parks and National Historic Parks and Sites are administered by a director and three regional directors who are responsible for operations in the Western Region, the Central Region (Ontario and Quebec) and the Atlantic Region. Each director is advised by representatives of the five staff divisions of the Branch—Financial and Management, National Parks Service, Canadian Historic Sites, Engineering and Architectural, and Planning. A resident superintendent manages each park and directs a staff of park wardens who protect the park and its natural features and enforce park regulations, park naturalists who explain the park to visitors and offer various educational services, and other administrative, maintenance and visitor service personnel.