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ABSTRACT

Facing the reality that students have become very aware of their environment and the problems we face merely to survive, and being aware of the alienation of a person as urbanization increases, the project staff decided to develop a curriculum to examine the urban environment through the works of Canadian writers, poets, novelists, etc. In this way, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students could confront some of the major concerns; become involved personally, though vicariously, in the lives and situations of individuals; and, learn about himself, his place, his role in urban society, and his Canadian literary heritage. The content selection and compilation of the writings was from a national point of view related to all parts of Canadian urbanization. The materials accumulated or referred to them during six months are included here in various categories taking into consideration the physical and human elements of each work: 1) Faces of the City: descriptions, rejection of and attraction to the city; 2) Faces in the City: dwellers life styles, reactions, age, ethnic groups, city natives; 3) Poverty; 4) Handicapped; 5) Social Issues; and, 6) Pollution. The material discussed is very flexible to allow for survey studies city or local studies, or intensive area studies of urban regions; and, may be used as supplementary material or as primary content. A progress report, a proposal for a sub-project, and a budget are also included. (Author/SBE)

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URBANIZATION AS SEEN THROUGH CANADIAN WRITINGS

JUNE 1971

# Western Curriculum Project on Canada Studies

ED055010

Urbanization as seen through Canadian Writings

Campbell Collegiate Institute

102 Massey Road

Regina, Saskatchewan

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We, at this time, wish to gratefully acknowledge the assistance given to us by various persons:

- to the Regina School Board and its administrative staff for permission to work on the project.
- to the principal and staff of Campbell Collegiate for making the necessary changes and arrangements to allow our team to function within the school. We especially appreciate the helpfulness of Mrs. Simms, our librarian, who freely gave of her time and knowledge in helping us locate materials; and Mr. E. Ziolkowski, vice-principal, who arranged our teaching timetables to facilitate our meetings and was always around to help us when numerous petty problems arose.
- to the English teachers and senior English students at Martin Collegiate who helped locate material in their school library.
- to Mrs. Lys's grade ten English honors class, Campbell Collegiate who located material and used the material in a class project on Urbanization.
- to Dr. Schaller and to the seventeen students from his education classes; College of Education, University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, who did a reading and listening "blitz" to locate materials from numerous sources for us.
- to Miss P. Wigmore, English department, University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus for her assistance and

comments upon materials and ideas.

- to Mrs. Shirley Kelly, S. T. F. receptionist and Miss I. Beggs, Secretary at Campbell Collegiate, who typed the first rough draft of this report and to Miss Brenda Orthner, a grade eleven student who typed the final offset plates.

Without the assistance and co-operation of these persons, our report and our project would have been impossible.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page(s)
Acknowledgements	
I. Project Personnel .....	1
II. Consultants to the Project .....	2 - 3
III. Selected Approach .....	4
IV. Rationale .....	5 - 6
V. Guideline for Content Selection .....	7
VI. Compilation of the Findings of Canadian Writings related to Urbanization .....	8
A. Introduction .....	8 - 13
B. Faces <u>of</u> the City .....	14 - 34
C. Faces <u>in</u> the City .....	35 - 43
D. Age .....	44 - 49
E. Ethnic Groups .....	50 - 54
F. Indians in the City .....	55 - 64
G. Poverty .....	65 - 69
H. Handicapped .....	70
I. Social Pressures .....	71 - 74
J. Pollution .....	75 - 77
K. Reference and Complete Works .....	78 - 82
L. Bibliography .....	83 - 92
VII. Team Progress Report - Year I .....	93 - 96
VIII. Proposal for sub-project development in Year II .....	97 - 99
IX. Proposed Budget for Year II (1971-1972) .....	100

I. PROJECT PERSONNEL

1. Gordon Glaicar - team leader

- classroom teacher in the Social Studies department of Campbell Collegiate

- professional training: B.A. - history, major; English, minor (1969)

B.Ed.- general (1969)

from the University of Saskatchewan, Regina

- 7 years teaching experience.

2. J. Kelly Lovering

- social studies and English teacher at Campbell Collegiate

- professional training: B.A. - history, political science (1968)

B.Ed.- social studies (1970)

from the University of Saskatchewan, Regina

- 2 years teaching experience

3. (Mrs.) Bernice Lys

- classroom teacher in the English department of Campbell Collegiate

- professional training: B.A. - English, math

B.Ed.- general

from the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon

- 5 years teaching experience

## II. CONSULTANTS TO THE PROJECT

Miss P. Wigmore - English Department, University of Saskatchewan,  
Regina Campus

Being the person responsible for Canadian literature at the Regina Campus, Miss Wigmore was interested in our approach to the project. Through several discussions she provided us with information, suggestions, problems and encouragement. Due to her teaching requirement her direct involvement was limited but she was able to offer guidance to or criticism of our approaches. Because of her background in Canadian literature, she was a valuable resource person. Since Miss Wigmore is leaving the University of Saskatchewan we are seeking another resource person who has a background in Canadian literature.

College of Education, University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus

Mrs. A. Groome, Dr. R. Fowler

Dr. H. Jansen, and Dr. J. Schaller

These four professors in the College of Education gave valuable guidance in helping to establish the foundations of the project. Through their questions, comments and criticisms they helped us clarify some of the guidelines and approaches we were using.

Mrs. Groome expressed a keen interest in assisting us in the area of evaluation when we arrive at that stage. Although she has left for doctoral studies in Edmonton it is hoped that her abilities and interests in evaluation will be utilized by other projects if not by our own.

Dr. J. Schaller of elementary social studies was most enthusiastic about the whole concept of the teacher as a curriculum



developer. We presented information about Project Canada West and about our project to members of his classes. Seventeen members of his classes aided us with a ten-day reading blitz. Their assistance by reading and collecting available material for our project was acknowledged by Dr. Schaller in lieu of one class assignment. Much information was collected and several new leads were suggested.

Dr. H. Jansen permitted us to speak with Education students who were majoring in the English program. Their interest and assistance may be utilized at a later date in the project's development when volunteer classroom teachers will be requested to try the material within a classroom situation. Several expressed interest in doing such pilot studies.

### III. SELECTED APPROACH

Students have become very aware of their environment and the problems we face as people merely to survive. Along with the issue of survival, the alienation or loneliness of a person in a large mass of people becomes a frightening prospect. We felt that by examining the urban environment through the works of Canadian writers, poets, novelists, etc. the students could confront some of these major concerns from yet another perspective - the eyes of the writers.

Because of the level of the writing, a certain level of maturity is necessary to examine the material. The team feels that division IV students (Grades 10, 11, 12) would be best able to handle this material. We feel that a 4 to 8 week period of time would be necessary to use some parts of this material. Another factor affecting the length of study would be whether or not this material was the only study being done or whether it was being used in conjunction with materials from other projects in the same or in different classes. If, for example, material from our project was used in an English class while material from another project was used in a social studies class, the time spent on the topic would have to be agreed on by the persons involved. The nature of the teaching strategies and the type of student activities which will be selected will also determine the length of time spent on this study.

IV. RATIONALE:

1. The increasing rate of urbanization in Canada has resulted in concern about large masses of people. Even in regions not directly affected now, the problem of large masses of people brought together through rapid urbanization could become a primary concern. Within such large groups the individual is often relegated to a role of secondary importance. To counteract this alienation aspect of urbanization the study of Canadian literature would allow the student to become involved personally, though vicariously, in the lives and situations of individuals. This involvement could provide him with insights about himself, his place, and his role in urban society. It would also provide him with an opportunity to empathize with people in situations which he himself has not experienced or confronted.

2. Writers and poets have been said to be the barometers of their society. By examining their works one can be made aware of the variety of responses which people have already made to the topic of urbanization. Many writers and poets have been commenting upon the urban scene and life in the urban scene for some time.

3. The deplorable lack of knowledge about and familiarity with Canadian writers and poets can be changed by this study which allows students to explore and use the works of Canadians (on a thematic basis) and thus become more familiar, more critical and more appreciative of their Canadian literary heritage.

4. This unit is a study of national scope with materials related to all parts of Canadian urbanization. The material discussed is very flexible and adaptable to allow for survey studies of the Canadian scene generally, to allow for city or local studies, and to allow for

intensive area studies of the urban region in which the students reside or the urban areas closest to their residents. It could also permit a study to be made of a region which is densely populated (e.g. the area from Montreal to Hamilton) to analyze what unique problems such intense concentrations of population pose and how they have been viewed by the writers. Because this literary approach is so encompassing in its comments, it is easy to see it is totally transferable for us in any area of Canada.

5. This sub-project contains elements of both the English and the social studies programs and therefore would lend itself well to an inter-disciplinary approach and to the idea of correlation and team-teaching. It could be utilized as a literature study or analysis of Canadian writings, or it could be used as supportive material in a social studies unit which looks at urbanization from some other viewpoint rather than the literary. Its most effective use, we feel, would be as an English program carried on at the same time as a social studies unit, both dealing with urbanization but providing a wider perspective of the topic for the students.

V. LIMITING GUIDELINES FOR CONTENT SELECTION

For our purposes Canadian writings (novels, short stories, poems, plays, etc. ) and films have been defined as follows:

1. A Canadian writer (a) a person who was born, raised, and has lived in Canada.  
(b) a naturalized Canadian  
(c) a person not born in Canada but who has resided in Canada for at least 4 or 5 years.
2. Canadian material - (a) material written by Canadians about Canada.  
(b) material written about Canada by naturalized Canadians or non-Canadians who have lived here long enough to make creditable comments.  
(c) material which is of a more universal nature or theme and which can be applied to the Canadian scene. This material is selected if the author is a Canadian.
3. Urban literature - the criteria for the selection of these works are similar to those above in the definition of Canadian material with the added restriction that they are related to the urban theme.

VI. A COMPILATION OF THE FINDINGS OF CANADIAN WRITINGS RELATED  
TO URBANIZATION

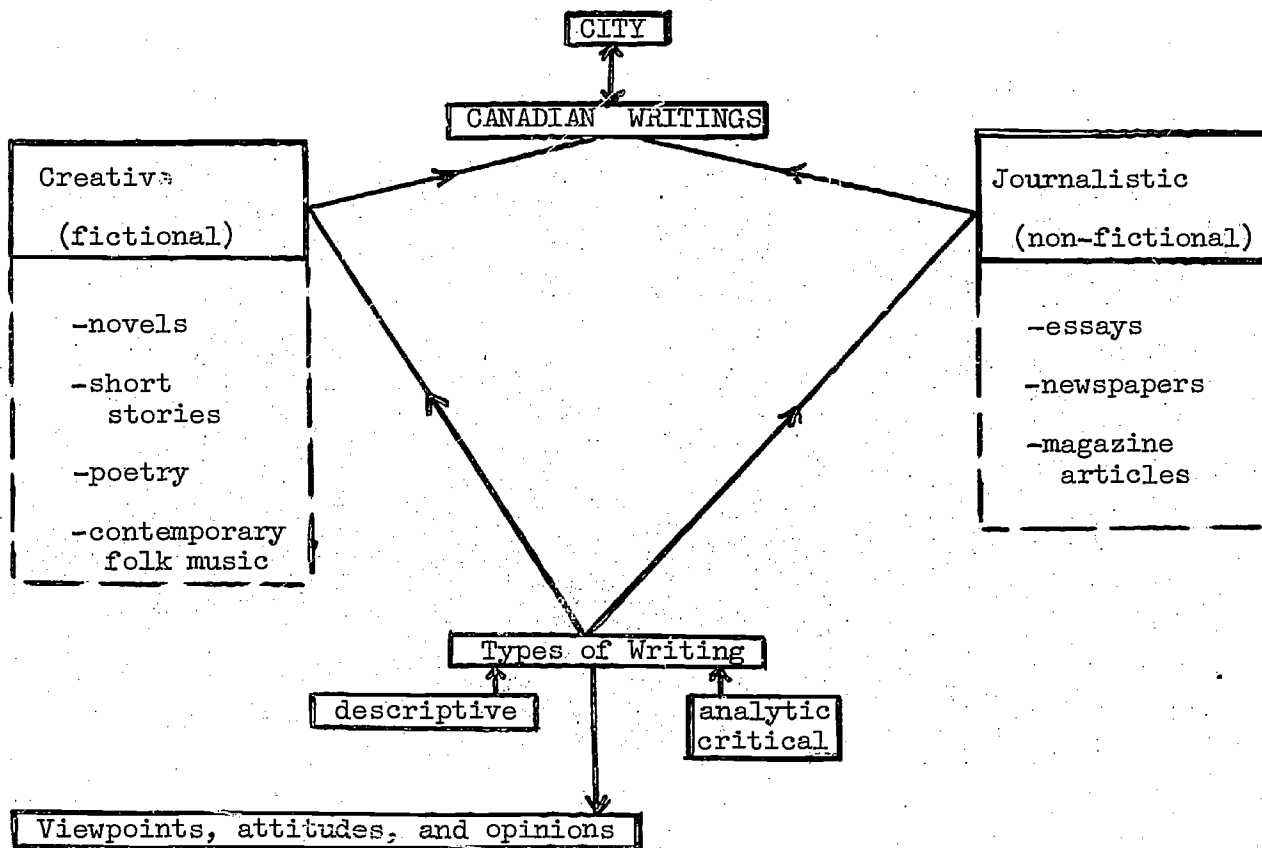
A. Introduction

Although the team as a unit has had less than six months to work together, the following section is a summary of the materials collected to date. By the very nature and design of this project we intend that it should remain open-ended. The materials listed on the succeeding pages, then, is merely that which we have accumulated or that to which we have been referred in the past six months. We do not presume to say that this is a complete list nor do we feel that the material herein is necessarily the best. We do feel that this report will do the following:

- a. indicate that there is more than an adequate amount of material already written by Canadian poets, novelists, and writers related to urbanization.
- b. be useful as a basic source of material to which other works may be added for a study of various aspects of urbanization.

In setting about collecting these writings we established a rough outline of the kinds of material for which we were searching. The following diagram sets forth our initial scheme. It indicates two major types of works - the creative (fiction, poetry, music, etc.) and the more journalistic (newspapers, magazines, etc.). In the initial stage we have concentrated our main efforts upon the creative aspect for several reasons.

First, the time element. We did not have enough time nor personnel to concentrate upon both areas. Secondly, we felt that teachers and students, and school libraries, have much easier access



of

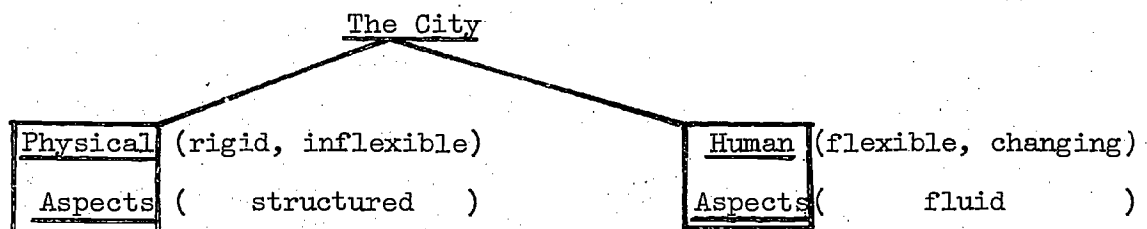
- urban dwellers
- smaller community dwellers
- rural dwellers
- British origin
- French origin
- smaller ethnic groups  
(Jews, Slavic groups)
- newly arrived immigrants  
(Italians, Chinese)
- Indians
- Eskimos
- Metis

towards

1. city life
2. moving to (or) growing up in a city
3. social class distinctions
4. job opportunities
5. living conditions
6. social and economic discrepancies
7. others

to the journalistic types of writing. We have included various articles to indicate that such articles do exist but our emphasis has been on collecting and compiling the creative section. Thirdly by the very nature of the project the emphasis will be upon the writings of the novelists, poets, song writers, etc., with the journalistic writings being used as background information and material for purposes of comparisons.

Although the preceding diagram was our initial plan for research we found it to be inadequate. Certain areas appeared which did not have an assigned place. Other areas (i.e. the ethnic writings) for which we had made several categories did not have a great deal of material. As we collected selections we continually revised our categories until we were able to sort, into manageable size, the materials we had gathered. Retaining our original diagram we now clarified and regrouped the "viewpoints, attitudes and opinions" section as follows:



From the material we collected and examined, we have found that these two major groups occur. The Physical is viewed as the city itself, its structure, its order, its form, its rigidity. In these selections we merely see the city being described or we see the cities effect upon the people who inhabit it. The Human Aspect is the material which shows how man, who is changing, developing, and fluid responds to the urban environment - man's reaction to the city.



We suggest that these two approaches or aspects be considered when the various categories are examined by teachers or students.

The physical and the human aspects are present in all of the works related to the city. How they are emphasized or de-emphasized is one of the major considerations the classroom study would examine. The opportunities for cross-reference between these two aspects will also be areas for examination.

Realizing that each work contains the physical and the human elements, we then regrouped our material into various categories. These categories were the guide by which the remainder of this year's work was done.

1. Faces of the city

In this category we have 4 sub-groupings.

- a. descriptions (neutral)
- b. rejection of the city (the city is viewed negatively and man wishes to withdraw from the city and escape to nature)
- c. attraction to the city (the city is viewed as the place "where the action is". Even if it is "bad" we are still drawn to it.)
- d. conflict between rejection and attraction. (Even though we reject the urban we are not satisfied with the rural and thus fluctuate between the two.)

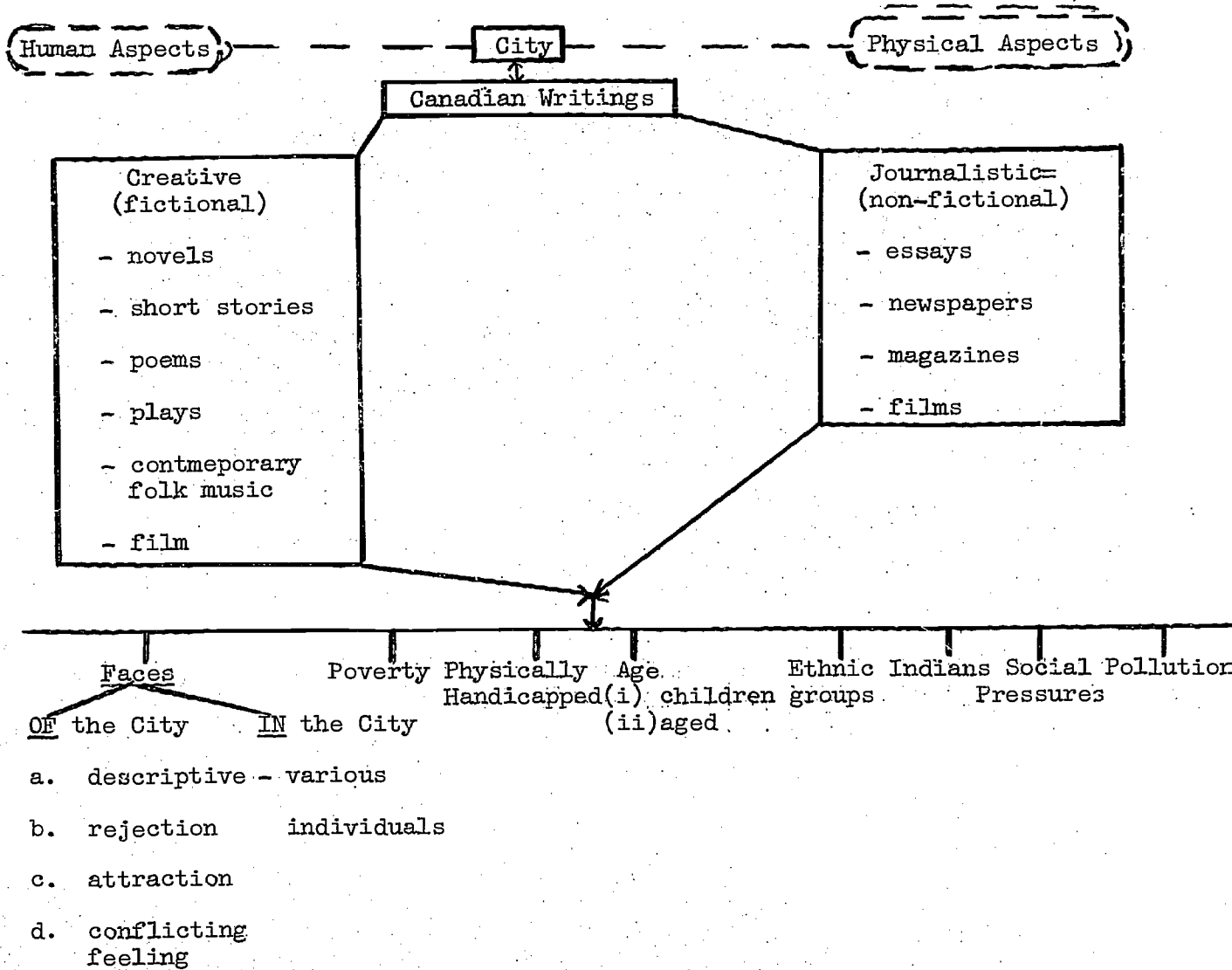
2. Faces in the city

Various individuals or persons are seen as city dwellers, how they live and react to each other, to themselves, and to the city. These views are often given through the writer's eyes and therefore as a third person he is assuming that his observations are or would be those of the person about whom he is writing.

3. Poverty

4. Handicapped
5. Age - both young and old
6. Ethnic groups
7. Indians and Eskimos
8. Social Pressures
9. Pollution.

If we were to diagram our project and its strategy we would have the following structure:



## B. Faces Of The City

The urban framework can be approached by looking at the city as an entity of its own, or at its components where the views of each individual are considered. Neither approach is simple or homogeneous. Canadian themes and feelings regard both views as relevant. "Faces of the City" is the title into which we have placed the writings which predominantly display the approach of the outside looking in. The city, though regarded as an entity, may be observed from multiple angles. We have broadly divided these approaches into four categories: description, attraction, rejection, and the urban-nature conflict. It is under these four headings that selections will be presented for consideration.

### Description.

"Canadian Cities, Their Health, Malaise, and Promise" by Daniel Cappon (Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, November 1970.)

This article considers the characteristics of a city such as size, density, form, tradition, character, heterogeneity, circulation, transportation, housing, industry, manufacturing, commerce, the ingredients of city sites, and indices of malaise. The characteristics of a city should aim at providing an adequate environment for the urban society. This article provides a serious discussion of such aspects.

"Public Goals and the Canadian Environment" by P.T. Smith (Plan Canada Vol. II, 1970.)

This article states that urban planning is the responsibility of even the smallest group. Planners of urbanization must learn to identify more meaningful goals, some of which are discussed in this article. The examples of the planned and unplanned cities of Kitimat and Kimberley are discussed and results these cities have produced are elaborated upon. A

good article for considering the physical aspects of city planning.

The NFB produced two films most apropos this topic: "The City: Heaven and Hell" and "Boomsville." "The City: Heaven and Hell" is the first in a series of six films entitled "The City," which would serve as excellent resource material for use during a unit on the history of the city as an entity. The 28 minutes films of the series are the following:

1. The City: Heaven and Hell
2. The City: Cars or People
3. The City and its Region
4. The Heart of the City
5. The City as Man's Home
6. The City and the Future

"The City: Heaven and Hell" provides a commentary by Lewis Mumford interspersed with city scenes depicting its power, people, needs, and development. The films deal with the cities as an entity in the world, an important concept for young people of today.

"Boomsville" yields an animated presentation of the evaluation of the city from frontier outpost to bustling metropolis. Especially excellent references to nature's disappearance, uniformity, identity, and overcrowding from a pollutionary standpoint are presented in a manner easily understood. This ten minute production illustrates what the city has as well as what it is missing.

"Page of Gaspe", a poem by Earle Birney, provides an excellent sustained image of urbanization replacing, the rural surroundings. The process is followed step by step from the uninhabited riverbanks to the jet-plane era.

Eric Nichol in his Sense and Nonsense humorously and satirically explains the history of the city and why some cities have certain components.

Cities specifically referred to are Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, and Ottawa. Nichol provides an entertaining yet thought-provoking explanation for Vancouver's history and reputation, Regina's man-made lake and abundance of trees, Edmonton's enviable streetcar system and color-blind males, and Ottawa's tremor in 1944. A unique view of Canadian cities!

Through Sarah Binks Paul Hiebert offers an outside, prairie girl's view of the city. Parts of this novel provide excellent satire and criticism of urbanization in its early stages on the prairies.

In contrast to the objective, outside description of the city, Canadian writings offer city description by people from within, who are a part of the city yet trying to view it as a single entity, removed from the immediate action. Miriam Waddington's "Investigator" (Klinck & Watters: Canadian Anthology) provides a poetic description of the city as seen through the eyes of a careful analyst and keen observer - an inspector. Some related descriptions of old people enhance the poem. "City Street" by Elizabeth Brewster (East Coast) offers a more descriptive than definitive sympathy for the people of a city moving through the bright lights and crowds, longing for something more. "Morning, Noon and Night" by P.K. Page (Cry Ararat! Poems New and Selected) discusses the city and its people at these three times of day, again with the sympathetic overtones for those in the city's clutches. George Woodcock, in his "sonnet" (Selected Poems of George Woodcock) brings forth the patriotic view of dying for your city, your home, and the vulnerable man versus the invulnerable city.

Margaret Avison's "Apocalyptic" (Winter Sun and other Poems) includes both the human and physical aspects of a city. Her imagery is particularly vivid as she moves from rich to poor, residential to industrial, desirable to undesirable, in her attempt for total description.

"Poen" by NFB is a 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute black and white pictorial interpretation illustrating symbolism while Leonard Cohen reads parts of his "Beautiful Losers". The second reading is predominately city oriented; if studying Cohen, this film has strong possibilities.

Robertson Davies' "Night Noises" (Klinck & Watters: Canadian Anthology) and Louis Dudek's "Evening" (East of the City) present night descriptions of the city. Davies culls out the engines shunting, cars in the railyards, river sounds, dreams, phone calls, and cats in the park; an almost mysterious mood prevades. Dudek has city life soften and quieten as life fades silently into the night.

"That City" by Carol Shields (Canadian Forum Vol. 46) describes the unnatural effects a snowfall upon the city streets creates upon the physical elements of a city; Miriam Waddington's "Summer" (Say Yes) impinges a city mesmerized by the summer's heat. Both poems result in vivid description of the Canadian city, any and all.

An examination of individual elements which occur in the city appear for our reading. Raymond Souster describes the movement of a family of eight ducks from a stagnant river bed along a congested subway in "Backwater" (So Far So Good). Streetlights catch the attention of two poets, resulting in Eli Mandel's "Streetlights" (An Idiot Joy) where they are personified in pastoral style, and Margaret Atwood's very picturesque personification of street lights and traffic in her poem "The City Girl" (Poesie/Poetry 64). From the same source we find Lionel Kearns "Things", a poem in which he sees such things as tail-lights, tires, street-lamps, and a slight wind, as part of the spectator's city view.

Back to viewing the city as an entire entity one can read Louis Dudek's "A Shadow" (East of the City) and ponder over this idea of the city in the

1940's compared to more contemporary views of urban life such as Earle Birney presents in "Anglo Saxon Street" (Selected Poems) where Birney employs the old Saxon Literary style to describe the dual aspects of a city - rich vs. poor. In Phyllis Gotlieb's book Ordinary Moving, "Crazy Clean Lullaby" pictures the standard suburban street, while "So Long Its Been" sketches the various addresses of a district the poet once lived in, and enhances each address with the associated memories.

If one cares to take a look at more than one Canadian city, Canadian writings can again supply this approach. A descriptive documentary by Dorothy Livesay entitled "Roots" (The Documentaries) travels west from Vancouver to Saskatoon and on to Winnipeg. Commentary on the prairies and open country are also part of this selection. The drama "Toronto to London - One Way, Gray Coach Lines" by Jack Chambers (Alphabet, No. 8) presents a conversational dialogue between two people on a trip from Toronto to London. Various characteristics of the cities they pass are discussed during the trip. Kildare Dobbs' story "Running To Paradise" (Tamarach Review Vol. 23-26) tells of an immigrant going from east to west, listing nearly all the towns along the way and making critical remarks about each as well as telling of the trials some people encounter within these cities. These selections serve as comparisons of city appearance as well as geographic orientation to location and locale.

#### Individual Cities

The next sub-group deals with Canadian writings which specifically describe one city, giving its general and unique characteristics which develop that particular city's personality, if indeed a city has such. Starting at the West Coast, we begin with Waste Heritage, by Irene Baird.



In a style resembling Steinbeck, Baird's novel paints a clear picture of conditions in Vancouver and Victoria in 1938. The frustration and alienation which accompanies unemployment is illustrated through a protest meeting with a violent aftermath.

Earle Birney offers two presentations of Vancouver in his radio play "Damnation of Vancouver" (Selected Poems 1940-1966) and the poem "Vancouver Lights" found in the same book. "Vancouver Lights" views this city from the mountain and contemplates man's potential to be creative or to destroy himself. The lights conjure vivid analogues in Birney's poem, and Vancouver's lights become an inspirational source. "Damnation of Vancouver", later becoming "Trial of a City," is a fantasy drama in prose and verse of the present and the future. The situation is a hearing to determine whether Vancouver should be annihilated. Both the living and the dead are consulted as witnesses. Birney soundly attacks the squalor of contemporary urban life and the need for optimistic decisions in the following decade.

An accurate, witty presentation of "civic history as humour" occurs in Eric Nicol's Vancouver. Vancouver's history from Captain Vancouver through to today's bikini girls on English Bay becomes a delight to read.

A discussion of what Vancouver is really like and why according to Philips Sykes appeared in "We Can Keep Vancouver Liveable" (Maclean's January, 1971); Frank Davey describes Vancouver in nature terms in his two part poem Vancouver I, II. (Bridge Force). History, settings, and growth enter the poem in various stages.

Two writings which pertain to Calgary are the following:  
"Above Calgary" by George Bowering (Alphabet, No. 8), which is a descriptive poem about the city of Calgary and its people, offering excellent picturesque images of the city as a modern urban setting.

Calgary by W.B. Fraser is a book which travels from approximately 200 million years ago when an inland sea covered the present site of Calgary to the year 1967. The author explains how and why Calgary grew, emphasizing that Calgary is the result of the combined efforts of generations of people.

Roy Daniells, in "Farewell to Winnipeg" (The Oxford Book of Canadian Verse), gives a vivid description of Winnipeg pity, telling of its strengths and splendour by a brief look at the past and the future. Daniells wants to make known the city Winnipeg, not letting it rise and fall "in the dark."

James Reaney sees Winnipeg as emerging from nature, becoming impersonal and mechanical in his poem "Winnipeg Seen ~~as~~ a Body of Time and Space" (Klinck & Watters: Canadian Anthology). This poem is also dealt with in the CBC audio-tape "The Canadian City ~~Seen~~ Through the Eyes of the Poet."

If one chooses to look at Toronto as ~~an~~ an urban setting, NFB offers (Bonjour Toronto), a 28 minute Black and White portrayal of a young Montrealer exploring Toronto for the first time. This outside viewpoint catches the excitement and activities which Toronto offers.

Dawn MacDonald's "Toronto: Could You Live There?" (Chatelaine, May, 1970) gives the author's viewpoints about Toronto as a city, its educational systems, transit service, planning, architecture, living situations, opportunities for jobs, day care centers, and crime rate.

Vincent Massey, in an excerpt from What's Past is Prologue describes life as it was to him living in Toronto in 1887. He tells of using sleighs and horses on the pavement streets, and describes the average Sunday in Toronto life of that era.

A humor view of Toronto is presented in Robert Thomas Allen's A Treasury of Canadian Humor. Here Richard Needham tells us that hating Toronto, the city of two seasons - too hot and too cold, - is a custom. With this

as an introduction, he continues to discuss Toronto in new and colorful ways.

"Queen's Park" by Luella Booth (Queen's Park) contrasts the rat race week-days to the quiet enjoyment of Sundays in this city. Miriam Waddington has written four poems about Toronto, remembering the city as it used to be and disliking what it has become. "Returning to Toronto," "A Sound of North York Between Sheppard and Finch", "Toronto The Golden Vaulted City" and "Saints and Others" (The Glass Trumpet) discuss urbanization, its effects and changes in Toronto.

A CBC T.V. production - April, 1971 - "One Upsville" gave the views and opinions of many westerners to Toronto and vice versa.

Ottawa very appropriately receives a bilingual description in George Johnston's "Bicultural" (Home Free). The poet glances over history, government, people and events within Ottawa's confines. In "The Lily Pond" from the same book, Johnstone takes a microscopic view of urban life centered around the lily pond, combining nature and the city into one continuous episode. "The Nation's Capital" by Alden Nowlan (Bread, Wine and Salt) ponders the idea of a city reputed to be the nation's head actually out of touch with the faucet it supposedly leads and develops.

"Montreal Comes of Age" by Naim Kattan (The Tamarack Review Vol. 46-49) is a short article dealing with the growth of Montreal, the physical face of the city, its changes through history, its americanization, and its modernity. One of many writings discussing Montreal's changes through time, it offers some points worthy of consideration.

NFB provides two ideas on Montreal. "City Scene" a 28 minute Black and White depiction of cross-cultural urbanization, examines a city block in Bangkok, Athens, and Montreal. Though especially good geographically, the film also displays special characteristics of North American urbanization. "Auto -

biographical by A.M. Klein" results in a strongly negative view of the city which one does not necessarily get from just reading the poem separately. The film shows, with the use of Klein's poetry, the Montreal which Klein, as a Jew, viewed in his own perspective.

Hugh MacLennan provides a prose selection which deals with a dual view of Montreal, the wonderful and the deplorable. "City of Two Souls" from Thirty and Three states that if cities have gender, then Montreal is masculine in each of the innumerable ways a self-confident man can display his maleness. MacLennan sees Montreal as, not one, but three kinds of men: the first you see on a fine summer's evening; the second appears in the vicinity of St. James Street; the third is found everywhere in the figures of the church. MacLennan says that although he is free to live where he chooses, he stays in Montreal because no other place is quite like it. It is wonderful, deplorable, magnificent and ridiculous. Such charm is enticing and difficult to equal.

The title "Montreal" offers some interesting poems for consideration. Earle Birney, in his poem "Montreal" (The Strait of Anian), yields an historic interpretation of Montreal, the oldest France alive. He also writes about the French people of Montreal - their sins and reactions to God. "Montreal" by A.M. Klein is, in French-Canadian dialect, recalling Montreal's colorful past, the present thriving metropolis, and the uniqueness it possesses. "Montreal" by Winnifred Macdonald (Fiddlehead No. 79) describes the street scenes and people of Montreal, while "Montreal '65" by Raymond Souster (The Book of Canadian Poetry) tells of a man reflecting memories of Montreal during a visit in 1965.

Raymond Souster also has written "Our Maid of Montreal" (So Far, So Good) in which the city becomes personified as a woman. Though the image

is effective it may pose a difficulty in classroom useage for that particular reason - the imagery used.

"Brotherly Love on Sherbrooke Street" by Miriam Waddington (The Glass Trumpet) offers a comparison between Philadelphia and Montreal, describing the people who inhabit the street and their ideals, their dreams.

"Skyscraper Window" by Louis Dudek (East of the City) offers an aerial view of St. James Street and surrounding area pondering the question "Did history know it would come to this?"

The novel Barometer Rising by Hugh MacLennan centers around Halifax and the city plays no small part in the story. Many excerpts from this novel could supplement a study unit on urbanization.

"Memory of Saint John" by Raymond Souster (The Book of Canadian Poetry) offers a poetic ponder by a man asking if St. John is still as he remembers.

This is only a niche in the Canadian writings of specific Canadian cities. The idea of individual interpretation and the relationship of a city and what it offers should be clearly evident. To each writer the city is and provides a unique experience - a postive characteristic of Canadian writings.

ATTRACTION

What attract people to cities? The charm of city living is certainly not a major topic in Canadian writings, music, or films. Urban beauty receives limited but diverse attention as clearly illustrated by the following selections.

"Pastoral of the City Street" by A.M. Klein (Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology) Klein portrays a pleasant, pastoral-styled poem of a city street scene. Although trying to show a positive view, implied criticism (of city living) lurks near the surface.

"City Song" by Ralph Gustafson. (Gustafson: Flight Into Darkness) Rhyming couplets lend a lilting innocence to a lover's view of summer's city beauty. Summer provides warmth and a certain richness to this setting.

Excerpt from Barometer Rising by Hugh MacLennan (Bissell: Great Canadian Writing) MacLennan discusses his reactions upon returning to Halifax after several years absence. His description and tour through the urban setting emphasizes the beauty of this port city.

"Genevieve" by Claude Gauthier (Record Gama AA-1012, CT 35237) In this French song the author describes the city as a locality where constant discovery evolves. The city never ceases to amaze him, boredom and loneliness will not bother the author as long as he lives in the city.

"Montreal" by George Lafleche (Velvet Records VEL7001) Gay, easy listening music supports this French song which tells of the beauty of Montreal, how lovely its lights brighten up the night sky, the people and their politeness, a city of charm, dressed in age. In this song Montreal is a city to love and in which we can find love.

"Night in the City" by Joni Mitchell (Reprise Records 6293) Night has fallen, the moon is up, streets are filled with music and laughter, signs

dash in colored time. The city, beautiful in such lights, offers places to go, things to see and do. The message is to leave your blues at home, come out and join the crowds, the beauty, the activity of living.

"Winnipeg, Willie and You" by Betty Graham (Birchmount Recording L.P. Colour Me Canadian) The social life available to city dwellers after working hours is suggested by the song. This presents a different approach to the same basic topic which Joni Mitchell dealt with in "Night in the City".

## REJECTION

Life in the city, for a multiplicity of reasons, receives a negative evaluation. Problems of loneliness, turmoil, abnormal pace of living, inhuman routines, appear in our Canadian literature, creating an image of the monster city, desolate, sterile, and decrepid.

Through different items, "The Underpass," "Downtown Train" and "No Escape" (Raymond Souster: So Far, So Good) each result in the same idea. Raymond Souster provides poetic sketches of city aspects which reveal to him the inevitable snare in routine, isolation within a crowd, and the desire to escape the city's grasp.

"The Magpie" - Douglas Leader Durkin (1923). Social upheaval is aptly described in this novel about a western Canadian city following World War I. The author relates the difficulties post-war society experienced in realizing the ideals for which the war was fought.

"The Ballad of Jarvis Street" by George Johnston (Home Free) liltily covers the cycle of urban living concentrating on marriage, the dreams of romance and escape but the inevitable suburban settlement of routine and monotony.

"The Street That Got Mislaid," (Our Heritage). Patrick Waddington's short story mocks urban organization through the picture of a civil servant who finds a filing card which had been misplaced thus freeing the inhabitants of that street from such things as the average deluge of mail and taxes from city hall. Rather than replacing the card, the city servant joins in the semi-obscurity. One of the few successful escapes from city control which writings offer.

"You Call That Living?" (T'Appelles Ca Vivre, Barclay B-60107) asks Jean-Pierre Ferland in his French song. For him, life in the city is a



mere existence where each human is just another cog in the machine.

The symbol of people like cogs in a machine appears again when the Poppy Family indicate a hatred of the rat race hustle and bustle routine of city living in "Which Way You Goin' Billy?" (Of Cities and Escapes by London Recording Artists).

Big City by The Five Bells (Polydor A 542004) teaches that city life of turmoil, rushing and pushing is not normal. City people should open their door and see what they are looking for. The implication is that these people desire nature, the time to enjoy things that are a natural part of life.

In One Take Over the Line (Quality Records, KA 516X, 1970) we see a man sitting by the railway station waiting to get away from the city of noise and bustle, though we are not told if he does.

"Anyone who had ever really been in hell must have given Enochvilleport a nod of recognition," says Malcolm Lowry in "The Bravest Boat" (Bissell: Great Canadian Writing.) Lowry uses Enochvilleport to illustrate the slums and poor conditions in contrast to gaudy neon-lighted areas, always emphasizing the ugly dilapidated conditions of city life.

"Montreal-Spring 63" by I.D. Trowell (Fiddlehead, 1963). This poem deals with a bomb which was planted by the Quebec Liberation Front outside the Black Watch Armory on Bleury Street. A man was killed. The author asks what is happening to Montreal; she used to be a happy adored city but when in trouble her "sick sirens cry."

Raymond Souster speaks of city killing in another way--through boredom. "The City Called a Queen" (So Far, So Good) questions the simultaneous hatred - love for the city one lives in.

George Janas, in "Public Parks" (The Tamarack Review, March, 1966) of-

fers a poetic description of the coldness of city life and Gordon Lightfoot's "In a Windowpane" (United Artists Records, VAS-6714) gives a musical view of the dark lonesome city beyond the window through which he gazes. Hate, coldness, and loneliness echo through the last four selections mentioned, and are strongly implied in many others throughout this collection.

"Cold Hands From New York" - Gordon Lightfoot (United Artists) This record tells the story of a man who goes to New York to seek his fortune. The city attracted him from a distance because it looked so beautiful, lit up at night. Once there, however, it did not meet his expectations as the people always wanted to take but never to give. He found no trust or willingness to help in the city but only crowded loneliness. Although the city is American, the author is Canadian and the theme excellent.

Two musical numbers which portray the city as a habitat composed of sweat, dirt, soot, and heat are "Summer in the City" by the Lovin' Spoonful and Jean Pierre Ferland's "La Ville" (Select Vol. 5, SP 12149 MSC 648). Recorded in French, Ferland's song says the lights make it impossible to tell day from night in this carpet of dirt and soot. "Summer in the City" sees people half-fed and sweatey as a result of the city's daily routine amidst dirt and heat. Here night offers only a glimpse of relief from the monotony, but gloom prevades the tone of the song.

The city is also viewed as a horrifying, impersonal machine. This almost frightening view of the city places the people as cogs in the machine's wheels, bound to whims and vices of the master. The machine is portrayed as destroying anything that is human or individual. This negative view is conveyed in the poems "The City of End of End of Things" by Archibald Lampman (Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology) and "Civilization Means That I Am Hardened" by Gwendolyn MacEwen (Beny: To Everything There is a Reason).

This theme is musically dealt with in "Monster" by Dunhill. The corruption of the city sounds loud and clear from selections such as these as well as the C.B.C. audio tape "Canadian City Through the Eyes of the Poet."

A welcome contrast to the previous selections can be found in "Toronto the Good" by the Brothers-in-Law on their record The Brothers-in-Laws Strike Again (Arc Sound Ltd. A684) This humorous attack at Toronto mentions its climate, administration, "free speech", art, traffic, and pollution. Choruses employ the unique argumentative technique of running something down by building it up. This protest, not mean in its wording, shows yet another way of looking at the problems of a city. This selection would correlate well with the television program "One Upsville" produced by the C.B.C. (Spring of 1971).

### CONFLICT OF THE CITY AND NATURE

Does a natural environment enhance living? The pastoral myth is so prominent a part of Canadian writings; hence, the brooding conflict between nature and the city is illustrated by the following examples.

"Growth of a City" by Ethel Wilson: (The Innocent Traveller) The author watches helplessly as the city gobbles up the countryside. Old landmarks and recreation areas disappear as urbanization sweeps all out of its way, or engulfs it. The relentless city growth and the futility of trying to stop urbanization are keenly portrayed.

"Civility a Bogey" by Margaret Avison: (Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology) This shows the clashing between rural and urban centers. Using a chinasop-bull analogy, the reader is shown how, through contact, these two forces are molded into a third shape. After all, "It's all one" concludes the poet.

"I'm Gonna Be A Country Girl Again" by Buffy St. Marie (Vanguard Recording Artists: I'm Gonna Be A Country Girl Again). The noisy, hustle-bustle atmosphere of the city compared to the solitude of country life, leads the artist to desire removal from the city in favor of the natural, country atmosphere.

"Song To A Seagull" by Joni Mitchell (Joni Mitchell, Reprise S 6293) Through the flight of a seagull we receive a descriptive comparison of city with the seashore. Strong imagery illustrates that the escape to nature is a necessity for the bird, and one feels the strong implication is for humans as well.

"The City" by Johnny Cowell with The Laurie Bower Singers (477-25127) There are many opportunities for people in the city but many people prefer country life. City life is not always all that its made up to be, is the

message from this song.

"On the Tecumseh" - Ronald Bates - (Changes - Macmillan) The author sees the natural forces in the world struggling to brighten the urban environment but having little success against the freeway and skyscraper. In fact, the light of the sun often makes sore spots more obvious and further alienates the more observant urban dweller.

"L'Ordinaire" - Rob't. Chorlebois (Gama) City dwellers consider their existence superior to that of the rural inhabitants but the latter are actually as pleased with theirs as we are with urban society. This may be an untruth in view of the many people who desire to leave the city if economic ties didn't make this impossible.

Ian Young's "Fear of the Landscape" (Purdy: Fifteen Winds) poetically phrases the question many works indirectly ask: "Have I been too long in cities ...?" Cities are capable of numbing natural responses.

"Direction" by Fred Cogswell (Star-People) This poem depicts the feelings of a country-dweller who goes to the city, showing the alienation of small community dwellers when in the city. The nature image again reigns supreme.

"Free From The City" by The Poppy Family (London Recording Artist: Which Way You Goin' Billy?) This song suggest the cleanliness of country life over the filth ever present in the city. Air and water pollution are closely related topics here.

"Tree In a Street" by Louis Dudeck (East of the City) Why won't the tree conform to the sterile uniform, mechanistic city character? She insists on being alive, and unique despite her urban paraphernalia of wires, pruning, and position. The tree stands a victor over the city in this poem.

"The Follower" by Miriam Waddington (The Glass Trumpet) The sole necessary escape from the city is found in living on the outskirts of the city,

so one can receive from nature love, life, and beauty. Living where "meadow and hot asphalt meet" makes urban dwelling tolerable.

"Jumbo" by D.A. MacMillan (Only The Stars Know). Although basically a war story, the simplicities of country life are lauded, and both direct and subtly indirect references to a derogatory urban life arouse a strong negative feeling for the city, created by citing rural values and not finding urban parallels. This short story emphasizes the social pressures city life places on a person from a rural background.

"On A Train" by David Helwig (The Sign Of The Gunman) This poem shows how our cities have lost nature's beauty. Instead of natural arrangement, we now see wires strung for miles, a neat pattern of thin lines of ugliness for all to view.

"Saint-Henri Spring" by Milton Acorn (I've Tasted My Blood) This poem presents a comparison of the way spring is remembered in the country to what spring means in the city. The description finds no beauty in a city spring except what the imagination supplies. Reality is grim.

"Seeing Beyond Brick" by Miriam Waddington (The Glass Trumpet) The poet offers us a solution to the drab, depressing spring of the city. If we will trouble ourselves to peer "beyond the brick" we will find nature and hence the desirable. Nature's spring is worth the effort of seeing beyond the city.

"Ballade of Springsong" by Phyllis Gotlieb (Ordinary Moving) Phyllis Gotlieb presents a different approach to spring in the city, but the end result is the same. In order for Spring to show herself in the city she must, as Gotlieb sees it, go "Slumming". Word connotation is sufficient for the reader to receive the message. The garbage, dirt, noise, and congestion with which the personified Spring must deal are imaginatively expressed. It lowers one's spirits that this must occur.

Harry J. Boyle's Straws in the Wind is a collection of his writings on a variety of subjects. He uses the season or a calendar approach to organizing his book. For a more complete listing of its appropriate contents refer to "Reference and Complete Works" in a later section of this report.

If the city is so undersirable, why doesn't one leave? One viewpoint presented in Canadian writings is that one can't leave the city. Even if you are able to physically escape the city's environment, it has impinged a certain attitude and set of values upon the person, causing a trapped result - the desire to escape to nature, but the inability to adjust to such a move.

Thus we see Edith Ogutsch in "Alien Landscape" (Fiddlehead, 1965) describe the longing to be out of the city and able to touch nature. However, when the poet does this, she finds that she not only misses the city but the country mocks her. She finds she "cannot move or breath". The poem presents the idea that there is a type of person suited for each type of environment. From the same source, we find Michael Gregory's poem "Feet" saying there is a time for the city and a time for the country. He sees the young, the vigorous, setting roots in the city, but retirement will be best in the rural setting. The city is worthwhile only for a time.

"Living in Toronto" by A.W. Purdy (Wild Grape Wine) yields the poetic cycle of escape from the city to the country, only to be trapped by the country and finding a return to city living a necessity. Such a vicious cycle is disconcerting. The NFB's production "The Quiet Racket" echoes this same theme. Here an attempt to escape city noise is abortive on two counts: (1) the city follows, hence complete urban escape is impossible (2) the uncommon sounds of nature are not comforting. It seems the city

environment is the most relaxing one to the city dweller.

Louis Dudek, in his poem "City and Field" (Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology) reiterates the attempted escape from the city but, once again, as the poet sits watching nature, he thinks about the city and can not remove its presence. And so the city lures and repels the individual, relentless to the end.



### C. Faces In The City

Is a city void of human life still a city? Do the individuals who dwell within the city give to that city its personality, or is a city's atmosphere an entity unto itself? What is the most fascinating, luring aspect of the city, the physical structure or the human element? Looking over Canadian writings, one must acknowledge that the human element, the faces in the city, are an important element of the city.

In the face of pollution, social pressures and other topics which comprise the units of this study, many people seek to escape the clutches of urbanization. They have become alienated from the society which once drew them with its promise of affluence. Because of this feeling of distaste, many authors have aimed their talents at pointing out the inadequacies of city life and urging people to seek something which may be more soothing to the mind, even if requiring certain physical hardships.

Margaret Avison, in her poem "To Professor X, Year Y" (Avison: Winter Sun and Other Poems), offers a general description of a motley of faces found in a city crowd. She fluctuates between the uniformity and the uniqueness such a crowd offers.

As Miriam Waddington drives home from a committee meeting she poetically ponders the various human groups of action - highway men, school children, mothers - all part of the superstructure, all learning to be. ("Committee Work" by Miriam Waddington in The Glass Trumpet)

In Macleans, December 1970, an article by Goldfarb entitled "The Successful Canadian" discusses a sample poll given to all provinces as to the people's ideals, goals, and ideas of success. Some interesting opinions of the Canadian self are brought forth.

Jean-Paul Filion's "Neighbouring Lives" (Twelve Modern Canadian Poets)

gives a French interpretation, accompanied by an English translation by G.R. Roy, of the illusion of urban living; the lonely, trapped, routine atmosphere prevades.

"Finale" by Douglas Le Pan (Klinck & Watters: Canadian Anthology) is a poem expressing the idea that no matter what a person does or is, spy, criminal, counterfeiter, or lover, there eventually is an end. All of the images are cloaked in the metaphors of night and the ending of dreams and plots is described as the coming of dawn, the coming back to reality.

Louis Dudek responds to the urban man's plight in "East of the City" (East of the City) by poetically saying that man's only hope for a better world in spite of all our technology and know-how is still MAN. Hope of escaping the life-killing city atmosphere will give man the power to endure.

"Apocalypitics", a poem by Margaret Avison, (Winter Sun and Other Poems), which was outlined in the section "Faces of the City", has several descriptions of working groups and individuals found within the city, and is worth consideration in this section as well.

Many people in the city seem filled with loneliness, ironic in such a compressed human setting. Musically this theme is presented by the following: William Hawkins' "Cotton Candy Man" (Christopher's Movie Matinee, Dunhill S-50030) carries a theme of loneliness and despondency, life must be more than routine and getting nowhere; Bruce Cockburn's "The View from Pompous Head", found on the same record, illustrates the loneliness that results from a failure in communication by a series of sketches of city "citizen"; "Marcie" by Joni Mitchell (Joni Mitchell Reprise S 6293) gives an impression of empty daily routine which Marcie tries to escape into as she makes time pass while waiting for her lover, the last stanza describing her final escape.

Between sketches of city faces we get philosophy about dropping out of

the work-a-day world for awhile in John Harney's poem "Friends and Relations (A Childish Tale)" in Poetry of Relevance 1. Harney feels you miss so much if you "do" instead of "be" - a reflection of the city routine again. A girl searches through the city night looking for herself, for love, in Mariam Waddington's poem "In the Big City" (Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology). Afraid of confrontation she runs away to hide and wait for day. NFB's "Waiting for Caroline" is a 84 minute color presentation of a girl torn between English Vancouver where she grew up, and French Quebec where she now lives. A lover from each setting provides the story of choice. Then, in Alain Grandbois's lengthy poem "Ah! All Those Streets" (Tamarack Review Vol 31-34), the story of how the author roamed the streets of a city in anguish of the rain, and could receive no help from anyone. People are compared to death and stone; he concludes that city has a soul of ice.

Individual characters and their habitats provide ample discussion for Canadian writers. Thus in Milton Acorn's poem "Rooming House" (I've Tasted My Blood) we are shown the ugliness of life in a rooming house. Poverty and social welfare are linked with the people of the house. P.K. Page describes the atmosphere of the boarding house, studying the prying curiosity of the landlady into the lives of boarding-house dwellers. "Landlady" (King: A Book of Canadian Poems) contains a startling image and striking diction. Miss Page also wrote the poem "The Stenographers" (Cry Aravat! Poems New and Selected) where the routine activities pull them through the seasons, an atmosphere of silent endurance pervading the poem. Alden Nowland's "The Stenographer" (The Things Which Are) tells about one girl who is tied down with her job and wants to be free, able to escape only through imaginations. "Nightpiece" carries the same theme of a person who doesn't like his job and wishes to be free, but instead of singling out the stenographer Nowlan



has, in this poem, generalized, saying most people in city jobs have the same problem of wishing to escape.

Margaret Atwood's "Woman on the Subway" (Poesie/Poetry 64) shows a woman who, though she has no job outside the home, has become entrapped in the routine of saving money, looking for sales, and keeping up appearances. No desire to escape is offered; the woman appears doomed to the cycle forever. It is a fact of life.

F.R. Scott offers a view of work as a professor encounters the task of examinations. "The Examiner" (Fifteen Winds) is a poem of life's futile necessities, all compartmentalized and ruled by the time factor.

Mariam Waddington in The Glass Trumpet speculates on the postman's thoughts in "Summer Letters" as he follows his given route, matching numbered letters to numbered houses. It is not his to question; he dwells in the security of order and not change. He is to deliver and not think about the implications of what he delivers, why, or to whom. "The Gardeners," from the same source, questions why one is successful while another cannot succeed. She wants a prolific garden like her father always had, but no amount of toil to her backlot will not respond. A subtle reference that this occurs not only in gardening is felt when reading the poem.

"In the Park" - Ralph Gustafson - Flight into Darkness. Sitting in the park, a young girl feeds the animals with a tin of meat and observes her surroundings. She secretly admires the hobo who picks up used papers and worries about nothing. The poet describes how she recognizes the freedom of the hobo's status and wishes she too could escape the grasp of the city.

Chipmunk - Len Peterson (1949) The novel portrays a Toronto bakery worker in his regimented and spiritless world as an individual caught in the social and political situations beyond his control. His reaction to the

situation provides a close look at a specific social problem.

Lantern Marsh - Beaumont S. Cornell. This novel is an autobiography of a young man's rearing on an Ontario farm and his subsequent move to the city to gain an education and to teach. His disillusioning experiences as a teacher provide the alienation he feels for the city.

Films:

"The Boy Next Door" - (NFB - color - 18 min.) This film is a refreshing break from usual alienation themes in that it depicts a case in which alienation is overcome. It tells the story of French-speaking Jacques moving into the house next to English-speaking Jimmy and of how the two relate even through the language barrier.

"Once Upon a Prime Time" (NFB - 16 min. 48 sec. Black and White) A housewife curses the advent of T.V. seeing it as an instrument for creating an emotionless, apathetic society for she can't rouse her family from it to partake of some necessary human needs.

"The Red Kite" (NFB - color - 17 min.) The film is based on Hugh Woods' short story "Flying the Red Kite". It is set in Montreal and shows a few of the people of the city who see in the kite a symbol of freedom they will never know within their urban environment. A universal theme of life and death underlies the basic symbolism.

The drugery of living to a time clock as the city worker must is a theme of many songs. Robert Charlebois' Mon Pays (Gama AA 1081 MS 104) is a French language description of the hectic life of a factory worker. The employee is not dedicated because he does not enjoy the job. He works for the money. Bus Ride by "The Guess Who" (Nimbus Records 74-0388) speaks of getting up each morning and catching a bus with millions of other people to attend a job you dislike just so you get paid enough to live another day. The city

is a place for machines, not for man.

Steppenwolf's Screaming Night Hog (R.C.A. D-4248) has a worker finished his job for the day, and desiring to join the night life of the city for escape. It is difficult to get the meaning of all words on this song, however. A.W. Purdy gives a poetic slant to shift work and its implications in "The Work Shift" (Fifteen Winds). Here life slowly eats man away; Here life slowly eats man away; neither escape nor hope is offered from this hell living.

The city newspaper receives attention in Raymond Souster's poem "Downtown Corner News Stand" (Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology) where a newspaper seller in Toronto sees life go by but he is not really a part of it; Irving Layton's poem "Newsboy" (Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology) where the newsboy on the corner of a busy street is seen as a distributor of great news, the events of the world happening for him and his job; Gerald Taaffe's article "Diary of a Montreal Newspaper Reader" (Tamarack Review, Vol 27-30) where the author tells of his experiences with the Montreal English newspaper and the types of people that read and write it. Included are little extracts from letters written in the paper.

The direct impact of one person's action upon another becomes vivid in Raymond Souster's poem "The Man Who Finds That His Son Has Become A Thief" (Kings: A Book of Canadian Poems). Emotion is the strong element of this poem as it is on Erna Paris' article "A Child of the Streets, A Product to be Rented Out" (Saturday Night December, 1970) where the background and future of an eighteen year old ex-hippie, ex-addict, ex-everything is discussed in an interview of her ideas. The social life of adolescents in the city comes under strong attack.

Raymond Sousta has a poem, "The Attack," which describes the situation of a man being beaten by three young fellows. Told as an incident related



by a friend, the impact of reality is strongly felt. On the same theme is an article by Harry Bruce entitled "The Bad Samaritan Down at the Railroad Station" (Macleans April 1970). The question of risking your own skin and dignity for some stranger is the issue as Bruce recalls an incident in a Toronto subway system of three youths beating a drunk. Would you have reacted the same?

Visitors to the city provide interesting, picturesque poetry when we view the following: F.R. Scott's "Tourist Time: (King: A Book of Canadian Poems) where summer tourists who come and nose around Quebec towns looking for the "quaint" inhabitants prove interesting material in their own right; Alden Nowlan's "Saturday Night" (Purdy: Fifteen Winds) was inspired by the inevitable strange Saturday night creatures which emerge to unceasingly cruise the the in Street, interrogating all with their self-assurance, costume, and aimlessness.

People of the city can become very involved with one another, resulting in some very interesting writing material. Morley Callaghan's The Loved and the Lost offers an excerpt dealing with the explosive, fiery anger of the Montreal Canadian fans at a hockey game. The influence of a group's opinion versus an individual's, in this case the referee, is clearly brought forth for the reader's consideration.

"My Remarkable Uncle", by Stephen Leacock, is a short story set in Toronto. A meddling old man is quite sure no one can undertake any minute personal endeavor without his aid or supervision. He adopts a newly-wed couple and interferes in their attempt to find a suitable abode. He is beautifully unaware that his efforts are not appreciated. Lack of privacy in the city and lack of recreation for certain age groups are issues worth consideration here.

"Agnes" by Gregory Clark (Canadiana) shows the obvious invasion of privacy

as well as the wily cunning, or smug urbanites. The story shows a man constantly harassed by a woman who consistently dial his number by mistake. In exasperation, he finally assumes the identity of the caller's party and causes some trouble for that person's circle of friends.

"One Spring Night" by Morley Callaghan (Alec. Lucas: Canadian Short Stories, Dell Pub. Co. Inc. 1970). In this short story Bob and Sheila have been to an 11 o'clock movie and after a snack in the restaurant they had walked for hours. Now, as the time nears 4 a.m., they realize that her father will be worried and angry. During the early hours of the morning they had awakened the excitement of love. After arriving home unwarranted quiet and shame brings a feeling of resentment and emptiness and ends the gentle beginnings of a love story on a note of frustration and loneliness.

"Requiem for Bibul" - Jack Ludwig - (Canadian Reflections) Set in Winnipeg in 1939 this story deals with the retention of eccentricity in an urban situation. The protagonist is a Jewish high school student whose accent and character exclude him from his more common classmates. His spare time is spent peddling not so fresh fruit to the women of the neighbourhood. Specific social comments concerning the school and housewives of the era are made.

"Funny, the War ..." - Mordecai Richler (Canadian Short Stories) This is an excellent story set in Montreal. It deals with the inability of a simple but socially sensitive man to operate within the urban framework after the second world war.

The phoniness of urbanity and the human ability to adapt to such is illustrated in P.K. Page's short story "The Green Bird" (Canadian Short Stories). A young man accompanies a friend to visit two very ghoulish old



spinsters. One is apparently well into a second childhood while the other exhibits a most unpredictable temperment. Both seem bent on gifting the young man who is the epitome of urban adaptability.

Frank Davey's poem "Triumph" (Bridge Force) discusses the implications of having his car's signal lights repaired after a month of inoperation. The security that comes from knowing things are right by city standards results in both relaxation and enjoyment for the author.

Louis Dudek's "A Store-House" (East of the City) shows that the poet observer here is not in the thick of things, but feels he ought to be-maybe.

Musically, we return to the loneliness, the ugliness theme of city living in Gordon Lightfoot's "Early Morning Rain" (United Artists VAS 6487-A) where a man, waiting at an airport, very depressed, wants to get out of the city but he hasn't enough money to do so. The implication is removal from the city would result in removal of the blues.

Joni Mitchell sings "Nathan La Franeer" (Joni Mitchell, Reprise S 6293). On her way to the airport, an encounter with a cab driver brings forth her idea that the ugliness of the city does not completely excuse the cab driver for his ugliness. Joni Mitchell may be referring to New York in this incident, but the poem could apply to any city as there are no specific references to New York.

"The Cashier" By Gabrielle Roy and translated by Harry Bense is set in Montreal, providing excellent city thoughts and descriptions. The action revolves around Alexander, a bank-teller, and his experiences cover the gamut of people and places Montreal has to offer. Faces in the city are brought together by Gabrielle Roy in a realistic, thought-provoking manner.

D. Age

The response of people of different ages to the city has been recorded in some of our writings. This group divides itself into two sub-groups- the young and the old. The young, especially the children, view the city much more positively. It may be that with youth we associate optimism and a cheerful outlook on life. All of the works that we have, have been written by adults and they may be reminiscing and giving to the young a much happier view of the world, similar to those of their own childhood.

The old person, usually retired, is someone viewed as being lonely. They live alone or, if they live with their family, they are seen as an "extra" to the family unit. Few of the works which we have give any joy to growing old. Most people dislike the thought of growing old; they may, in fact, fear it. The pleasant or positive sides of growing old are not mentioned often, the few which are are outweighed by the negative and pessimistic ones.

When examining this material we find that there is little, if any, material on the teenager. Newspapers and magazines have many articles (good and bad) about teenagers, but in our literature we find a rather distinct break between children and adults. It appears that a child is a child and that an adult is an adult and that there is no real transition stage between them. We have not examined children's literature nor have we exhausted all Canadian writings but from the material we have read any teenager, who appear are portrayed as being older children or they are young adults and respond and react to the world in the manner similar to an adult. The best illustration of this is Mordecai Richler's The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz. In this novel, Duddy Kravitz is a Jewish teenager in Montreal who, remembering his grandfather's statement

that a man without land is nothing, sets out by various means, humorous and even rather amoral, to get the land. Duddy, though only 19 years old, sees the past merely as his childhood. After graduating from high school he is a man and there is no discussion of the teenage years as transitional.

When we look at the adult world, the age factor loses its significance in literature. Adults or individuals confront problems everyone does and respond to them in various ways. In this period of life, from 20 to 65 plus years, the age factor is not given prominence, neither is it significant.

By such a distinct division between youth and old age, writers may be implying that the teenage-syndrome is only our society's concoction and not real, or they may feel that the teenage years are too complex and fluctuating too rapidly to be able to be adequately handled. Either possibility has interesting aspects for further analysis.

### Children

A.M. Klein's "Pastoral of the City Street", in Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology, poetically compares the city to a pastoral scene. Various things within the city are given natural counterparts to evoke a scene of peace and calm. The children are happy and carefree within this concrete landscape.

In the poem "Autobiographical" from the same anthology, Klein describes his childhood years in the Jewish section of Montreal. He is describing from an adult perspective and becomes somewhat nostalgic for the wistful, carefree days of his childhood.

"Newsboy" by Irving Layton in Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology shows us a young "businessman" on the street corner selling his papers. He sees the events that occur in the world as occurring for his benefit. If they did not, there would be no news for him to announce and no need for

a paper. He also contemplates the great and the insignificant changes his papers can work in the lives of the people who buy his papers.

Louis Dudek's "A Child Blowing Bubbles", (Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology), is a poem in which a child stands on a busy city street, oblivious of the rush around him and totally engrossed in the fun of blowing bubbles. The present reality is a joy to the child but the adult who is watching the child brings in the ominous future when he notes that the bubbles will eventually burst. He, in fact, may be the cause of the bursting bubbles.

A less joyful mood is given in "Yew Street" by George Bowering (Godbout, Jacques and Colombo, John R. (ed.): Poesie/Poetry 64). In this short descriptive poem the street is the downtown area in a poorer section of the city. By describing the dirty faces, shining bodies and tattered clothing Bowering suggest that even their rate of play is slower under the oppressiveness of the crowded street. There is an implied blame upon the city for having created a molded these children into being what they are.

In reaction to the oppressive and dark view of Bowering's "Yew Street", Louis Dudek in "Be Young With Me" (Dudek, Louis: East of the City, Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1947) puts forth the challenge to change one's attitude. His plea is that in spite of all the poverty and evil within a city the young do not need to be callous or confined by it. He challenges them to rise above its architecture and opiate effects and to retain their zest and joy for life and to fight against the suppressive and depressive aspects of this civilization. It is also a universal challenge for all to stay young and alert in mind and not to let the routine and demands of our cities discourage or destroy us.

"Cullen" by P.K. Page (Page, P.K.: Cry Ararat! Poems New and Selected,

McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1967) gives us the story of a restless soul. Born and raised in the city, Gullen tries to find the meaning of life in school and, later, in the street. Not finding it there he rejects the city for the country. He is more at peace here but still not able to give meaning to his existence. His restlessness finally leads him to enlist for the war in 1939. He neither knows who he is or why he is and the poem gives a very poignant view of this eternal searching for oneself and one's place in the scheme of things.

In the area of prose material there is Mordecai Richler's The Street (McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1969). In this work Richler sees Montreal from his childhood position. The experiences and acquaintances of his childhood are described against the background of Montreal as it was at that time.

A similar work is Robert Thomas Allen's When Toronto was for Kids (McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1970). In this book Allen describes the scenes and activities of growing up in Toronto. He describes his life in Toronto and his explorations and growing awareness of it. He sees it as having been a paradise for growing children but that progress and change have altered all of that. By his contrasts of past childhood experiences and scenes with those from the present we get a historical perspective of development but, more significantly, we are brought face to face with change and its many challenges.

Perhaps the best of the works we have examined thus far is Under the Ribs of Death by John Marlyn (McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1967). This novel is set in Winnipeg and deals with young (10-14) Sandor Hunyadi, a boy of Hungarian origins who wants to be a part of the "other side of the river". The novel has several good descriptive passages, and deals with the ideas of identity, cultural conflicts, acceptance and rejection, and youth. Al-

through the novel weakens in the latter half, it is a very perceptive view of the city through the eyes and mind of young Sandor Hunyadi who is trying to adjust and be a part of Canada and the city.

#### Old Age

"A Trip for Mrs. Taylor" by Hugh Garner (Lucas, Alex., (ed): Great Canadian Short Stories, Dell Pub. Co., New York, 1971)

Seventy - six year old Mrs. Taylor has lived alone for years in her one room flat. She decides to take a holiday with her "savings" she collected from budgetting her pension cheques. This short story transmits her excitement about going, her loneliness, her wanting to be with people. She has a son in Montreal that we all believe she is going to visit. The poignant surprise ending brings home more emphatically the plight of the aged in our cities.

As mentioned previously, the old person is seen in a rather negative light. In "The Key" Raymond Souster (Souster, Raymond: So Far So Good, Poems 1938-1968, Oberon Press, Toronto, 1969), describes the institution to which an aged person may be confined. Although the description of the mental hospital does not say that it is for old people, old persons are seen there and their senility and rejection is clearly visible. Being mentally ill and confined to such an institution is bad enough but combined with age it makes the situation pathetic.

"A Vancouver History" is by Frank Davey (Davey, Frank: Bridge Force, Contact Press, Toronto, 1965). In this depressing poem we see the old man who has no one to call his family. As he drifts to Vancouver he is rejected by society and he ends his lonely wanderings by committing suicide. This is no view of the derelict. The man referred to here is one of these who, probably because of lack of education, find that they are no longer con-

tributing to society but rather are parasites. Struggle as they do, merely to survive, they finally find the struggle too much and just end it all.

"Battered" by Raymond Souster (Souster, R: So Far, So Good, Poems 1938-1968 Oberon Press, Toronto, 1969) is a similar view of an old man, a "battered Christ", on Yong Street who, rather than beg, tries to live by selling post-cards. This poem points to the hopelessness of his situation in our organized and busy society.

Three half-hour films from the National Film Board also deal with the problems of the aged.

Where Mrs. Whalley Lives is a black and white film which illustrates the generation gap. Grandmother Whalley lives with her son's family and tries to hide her hurt and loneliness for the sake of keeping harmony in her son's family.

The Yellow Leaf is a film of an elderly widow who must leave her daughter's household to live in a home for the aged. Shocked and disappointed she finds that "the home" offers her other outlets such as friends, new interests and independence. It is a more sympathetic view of homes for the aged than people normally hold.

The Golden Age gives three views about what retirement means. Can retirement be useful and meaningful? How do people reaching the retirement age of 65 years see this retirement.

A C.B.C. Television production during the spring of 1971 - "Alive and Still Kicking" explored the views of the aged and retired to their own life. It is a plea that their vitality and keen interest in life not be shoved off into an old folks home. Although they had many problems and adjustments to face, they still see themselves as being able to make valuable contributions to Our society.



## E. Ethnic Groups

Many peoples from varied backgrounds have chosen Canada as their home. Each of these groups faces certain general problems in adapting to Canadian urbanization and each also has unique difficulties rooted in their heritage. In this unit of study, writings which exhibit the special situation of various ethnic groups are considered. The Indian is not involved in this unit for the problems he faces were believed to be divergent enough to comprise a totally separate unit.

Obviously, due to language gaps and sheer numbers, some groups are not as vocal as others when it comes to decrying their situations. Also, the larger ethnic interrelationship which pervades the whole of Canadian society, that between the French and English, is not discussed in this unit for that topic is worthy of a separate study. Instead, only those stories which show some aspect of urban life felt by new Canadians are examined.

The examples explained are arranged in four categories, each of which can be easily expanded.

A. European - Most immigrants to Canada are of a European background and, especially when from the British Isles, have often put down their feelings concerning Canadian city life and their adaptation to it.

1. Burn's Night - Norman Ward - Canadiana

This is a short story which exhibits at least two characteristics of the city - prejudice and lack of freedom. A man is disturbed by the revelry of his Scottish neighbours on Burn's Night. He has become very prejudiced towards them and looks upon anything Scotch with distaste. The police are called in to quiet the party and in their drunkenness the revellers are taken advantage of by their neighbour.

2. "Our Isolated Immigrants" by Valerie Johnson. Saturday Night (February, 1971)



This deals with what the author considers to be the special plight of Italian immigrants to Canada. It is of a sociological nature and reports on one-twentieth of Canada's population.

3. "Last Spring They Came Over" - Morley Callaghan (Canadian Short Stories).

A short story set in Toronto which tells how immigrant brothers from the United Kingdom find adjustment to Canadian urban hustle too much for their more leisurely European pace and shuffle from job to job, seemingly unaware of the jibes of their co-workers. The chidings of Canadians is not made out to be repulsive, simply humorous and, in effect, basic human kindness is shown, especially after the death of one brother.

4. Under the Ribs of Death - John Marlyn. A novel showing the struggle of a Hungarian immigrant's son in Winnipeg. This work offers some very scrutinizing observations of western urban society. The young, the poor and the alien all have a place in the plot and come to terms over such basic issues as materialistic ambition and human feelings. One's constant struggle for recognition and identity is especially well portrayed in this novel.

B. Asian - Many Asian immigrants have added their oriental characteristics to our society. Almost any large urban area has a Chinatown where the impact of these people can be examined first hand, but many stories and articles are also available which explain their relation to urbanization. Although many of these are American, some Canadian works are available.

One such work displays the hostility of wartime Canada towards Canadians of Japanese descent. Only in the city could the hate and prejudice be constant and ruthless enough to stimulate the immigrant to pull up roots and head back home. In a rural situation, solace could perhaps be found in the menial, lonely labor of the farmer. The poem was appropriately named "Call My People Home" (Dorothy Livesay, The Documentaries, Ryerson Press: Toronto, 1968).

C. Jewish - Historically one of the world's most tormented races, the flight of the Jews has brought many down within the confines of the Canadian city. Their special character and background has created a unique situation for the Jews which is aptly reported by their many spokesmen.

1. A.M. Klein's "Autobiographical" (P.344-45 Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology, W.J. Gage, Toronto, 1966) tells of the ability of the Jewish child to nurture his religious and ethnic backgrounds even when surrounded by other forces as he looks at his childhood in retrospect. He remembers his care-free happiness and the solace his background offered him as a youth in Montreal.
2. Mordecai Richler wrote a novel, Son of a Smaller Hero (McClelland and Stewart, 1945), in which a Montreal Jewish ghetto area is depicted. It is a fictional account of how a young Jewish man tries to escape from the bonds (both social and ethnic) of the ghetto. It describes the streets and houses of the area as well as revealing the conditions that prevailed during the first half of the century. Richler ably discusses the Jew-Gentile relationship and though the characters are fictitious, the situations referred to are very likely enacted every day where such conditions prevail.
3. The Sacrifice by Adele Wiseman (1956) is also a novel which exhibits the plight of a Jewish-Ukrainian family in Winnipeg. This is not ethnically restrictive but could be felt by any immigrant group in Canada as immigrant parents clash, due to a lack of understanding of their new home, with the changing attitudes of their children and grandchildren. An excellent novel and very topical.
4. Earth and High Heaven, a novel by G. Graham (1944) is a study of antisemitism in Montreal. True love and a passionate search for communication is shown within an atmosphere of social hatred with all its jargons and cliches. This is an ironic contrast which makes for good topical reading.

D. General - Because many of the obstacles which block adaptation are not confined to one group but are applicable to many or all, there are a number of works which deal simply with immigrant difficulties in the city, without pinpointing one special country as origin. Two of these are:

1. "They Outgrew Bohemia" by Miriam Chaplin (Macmillan: Tamarack Review: 1960, Issue 15 p.64). This is a short story relating the tales of the many immigrants who came to Canada, especially to big Canadian cities. The story relates their feelings for their new homeland and their hardships faced in getting settled. Some fail to make the grade and are doomed to a woeful life of pain while others succeed, contributing greatly to the Canadian culture.
2. A poem "Foreigner" by P.K. Page (Page, P.K.: Cry Ararat, McClelland and Stewart 1967) displays the feelings of the immigrant to the difficulties he faces when settling into his new life. Many days of fear and embarrassment need to be overcome before success can be achieved.
3. "Mrs. Fornheim, Refugee" - a poem by Irving Layton. A cancer victim has gone to great pains to learn English, only to meet death before this knowledge could be put to adequate use. It shows the tremendous effort some immigrants undertake to adopt to their new surroundings, only to be faced by new obstacles of a more formidable stature.

In closing, the infinite source of material for this topic should be mentioned. Being a young nation, most of us can find first-hand examples of immigration either due to personal experience or through the experiences of our parents and grandparents. Few classes within any urban school will be without people who represent the first generation of their family in this country. The chances of meaningful discussion and understanding of this topic are therefore boundless.

As well, there are many other writings available but they are written

in the native tongue of the author and have not been translated. Thus, unless the reader has a knowledge of that language, the source is lost.

F. Indians In The City

It is unlikely that any of us have evaded contact with a native person within the cities of Western Canada. This encounter may have been a direct one in which we served him gas, taught his children or ran from his rage. On the other hand we may simply have observed him in an idle moment as he doggedly endeavored to operate within an environment he cannot understand.

In either instance, we have likely committed a common human error in that we allowed these brief experiences to formulate unwarranted conclusions which encourage us to attribute certain demeaning connotations to the word "Indian". The more compassionate among us would claim the native was "emotional" or "apathetic", but most would label him "wild" or "lazy". His stereotyped image in the eyes of those with whom he must associate to make it in the city is but one of the obstacles towards creating the urban Indian.

Certainly, we would be remiss to conceive the native as unconcerned, for the last decade has produced a number of eloquent spokesmen for that race who have offered explanations and cures for the social ills which have plagued their people. Often, these writings have echoed the native voices of the past in which the loss of nature and heritage was lamented. This is easily accepted by the white society and refuted in the guise of progress. Conversely, more militant voices are likewise piercing all levels of communication. These are heard less comfortably and refuted with less facility than the others as their ominous rumblings seek to stimulate the white man's closely guarded understanding. Both voices are Indian, and both exhibit a desire not to become white, but to remain an Indian within a modern urban world.

In the following pages a synopsis of speeches and writings concerning the natives' difficulties within the city will appear. Not all of these writings

are the product of native minds as many white authors have added their opinions to the question. Only four very general topics will be considered although more specific headings could be used.

A. Indians View the City

To the native, the most arresting characteristic of the city is its cruel disregard for those who may not be accustomed to its haste and waste. His writing reflects the all too frequent lack of compassion on behalf of veteran city dwellers for the plight of his people. The Indian poet finds the urbanite as impassive as the buses they ride or the synthetic foods they eat. Some examples:

"Anonymus City" by Sammy Achneepineskum. In this poem the poet draws an analogy between urban compassion and a wayward cloud. Each are seen as equal in evasiveness due to the fact that one is as unlikely to reappear as the other.

"You feel alone  
With so many strangers.  
You don't care who they are  
And neither do they."

The obvious tone of the poem (only partially stated) reflects the robot-like life represented by the city dweller. (Selection taken from The Poetry of Indian Children - Department of Indian Affairs.)

"Megalopolis" by A.G. Bailey. An excellent poem which exemplifies the Indian's drive for identity. "Megalopolis" makes reference to the total lack of background the native has for city life. He gets lost due to the difficulty faced when only "macadamized roads" or "thickets of pipe and boiler waste" serve as trails. The impassive city makes no concession to lead the wanderer into the fold but leaves it to him to find his way or perish.

"The Novelty Shop" - Duane McGinnis (Akwesasne Notes, Jan./Feb., 1971, Vol. 3, No.1) Unlike the "manufactured bores" who generally inhabit our

cities, the Indian is reluctant to be drawn into the many shops and confidence games which characterize any urban downtown area. Even the cigar store Indian would abandon his ironic role if he were able.

"Tee-wun kwun-it" - Frannie Bob (The Northian) The poetess sees the city as a "man-made mountain" of strange sounds and unnatural sights. Survival depends upon how well she can use this mountain to obtain her goals and yet the atmosphere is choking her and straining her emotions. The people, too, are as stifling and are almost relieved when the city gobbles her up.

"Calgary of the plains" by Pauline Johnson (Flint and Feather) This poem offers an excellent opportunity for discussion and conjecture for it sees the Calgary of a few decades ago, before much of its natural beauty became obliterated by the gaseous expulsions of industry. She sees Calgary as the western rancing centre nestled snugly among the majestic rockies. This poem is older and less critical than more recent views of the city.

"Brandon" - Pauline Johnson (Flint and Feather) The view is essentially the same as her view of Calgary except that Brandon has remained the wheat-centre it was when the poem was written. Again there is an obvious opportunity here to discuss the oddity and apparent randomness of city growth. The poems can be effectively used together or as contrasts for each other.

#### B. Who is at Fault?

As Canadians, we often point an accusing finger at the U.S.A. and condemn their society as basically prejudiced. Meanwhile, we boast that ours is a society comparatively free of violence and prejudice and that Indians are being encouraged to integrate into Canadian society.

It appears that many authors are now demanding that we take a second look at such boasts. They shout above our prejudicial restraint in an attempt to stimulate mutual understanding between the races. They claim that as long



as the races remain strangers to one another, little headway towards building an integrated city will be achieved. For their part, they have produced a number of literary works promoting good will which all concerned Canadians should read.

Jim Dumont wrote an untitled poem in the February, 1971 issue of Free to Be which exhibits the supremacist attitude of many whites. He sees a greedy group of heartless men imposing their questionable values upon all, white and red. Anyone who shows a reluctance to conform is discriminated against. He warns that those who are discriminated will not remain passive much longer.

"How a People Die" - Alan Fry (Doubleday) This novel shows how difficult it is to help the Indian if you are not a native yourself. Unlike other works which blame white man's prejudice for the Indian's plight, this novel often blames the Indians themselves who, against good counselling, persist in attempting to survive in an atmosphere they neither understand or desire.

The Transition - N.F.B. film 18 min. B&W This film attempts to bridge the gap between the races and promote understanding. Told in story form, it is intended to acquaint young Canadian Indians with the probable difficulties they will meet in the city. It describes the Indians' needs and explains what both the Indian and white community can do to make the transition into urbanity a less harrowing experience for the native.

C. What is at Fault?

Many Indian writings are not as quick to blame discrimination for their shortcomings. They see their position instead as an historical fact which is not beyond alleviation, but one that should be attacked soon before the stereotyped opinions spoken of earlier become too deeply entrenched in the minds of urban Canada to be easily extinguished.

They feel further that success may simply be a matter of persuading the



Indian that aspired goals can be achieved within Canadian society without the personal anguish which has often accompanied such endeavors and which all too often ended in failure. In Kamloops., B.C., social workers found that such a simple task as applying for a job could become a formidable obstacle for the native whose natural lack of self-confidence within the city actually makes hunger an accepted alternative.

Education alone is not the answer for the Indian becoming more knowledgeable without giving up former tribal values. Thus both background and lack of education are the two most grievous faults facing the Indian who would become a city dweller and therefore are the most usual targets of authors concerned with Indian urbanization.

"The Beaver" - Duke Redbird (Free to Be, Feb., 1971) This is a poem in which the author attempts to relate his traditional natural values to the man-made ones of the city. There is a certain frustration evident in the writing which indicates the relationship does not exist.

"Thoughts of Silence" - Mary Jane Sterling (Thompson River Indian Band) While sitting in school in an uncomfortable desk, the poetess attempts to find relevance in her lessons. She is homesick and is bothered by the thought that some calamity may have occurred within her family. She finds comfort in the whispering wind and the chirping of the birds which she considers as her friends, instead of her classmates.

"Our Sad Winter has Passed" - Dan George (soliloquy in the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre in 1968) Indians must forget traditional values for they are worthless in the modern struggle for survival. Get, instead, the white man's education but retain your Indian identity. He delivers this speech with an aura of hope that both of these goals can be achieved.

"A Question of Rights" - Hubert Gunn (Canadian Indian Cultural Magazine, vol. 1, no. 3, 1970) This is a short story which depicts the Indians frus-

tration when he is forced to operate within an urban system. A treaty Indian hides his heritage so that he can purchase liquor in the liquor board store but forgets to add the tax involved, a common error for one not accustomed to paying it. His identity is thus exposed and he is refused service. The city has won again.

"Billie", - Elizabeth Cuthand (The Northian Newsletter, no. 17, November, 1970) This is a beautiful tell-it-like-it-is poem about a sixteen year old Indian girl named Billie. She leaves the reservation to find work in the city which she hopes will lead to a better way of life but is not certain whether or not she has found it. Easy to read and controversial.

"Rich Man, Poor Man" - The Way of the Indian, C.B.C. documentary series booklet. This particular selection deals realistically with the problems an Indian may face in meeting obligations posed by urban society (ie. ideas of time, work, saving). It explains methods which could be used to erase centuries of inbred values which obstruct the transition of the Indian. It concludes that an education is the most essential prerequisite the Indian could obtain to make the transition an easier one.

"An Ojibwa Girl In the City" by Edna Manitowabi (This Magazine is About Schools, vol.4, no. 4 - Fall, 1970 pp. 8-24) This article is an autobiographical account of the author's life. She recalls her childhood experiences on the reserve, her dramatic transfer to a Catholic residents school 70 miles away at the age of six, her later education near the reserve, her moving to the city (Toronto) and her life and the life of her people there. On several occasions she is ready to end it all. The cultural conflicts and value conflicts of the Indian in our society are portrayed very dramatically. The white man's society added to her problems and it is only

after many "bad" experiences that she gradually finds a purpose in her life, a desire to live, and a feeling of worth. These "good" experiences were also part of the white society so that the picture is not all one-sided. In her analysis of her life she examines the various factors which have molded and shaped her life and how she struggles for recognition and worth in society.

Because it is told in the first person by the girl who actually experienced all which she writes of, the article has a greater impact. It is more personal, but she does identify a number of factors which contributed to her downfall and which aided her in her comeback.

D. Background Studies which Aid Understanding the Problem

The question of aculturization of the Indian into an urban society has faced sociologists and other members of Canadian society for many years. Recently, many excellent studies and reports have been published which deal solely with this problem. These are not only interesting reading for all concerned citizens but may lead the educator and student alike to understand the Indian and his heritage better. The three listed below are especially helpful.

Indians in the City - Mark Nagler - (Canadian Research Centre in Anthropology). This work discusses the special problems the Indian must contend with in becoming urbanized while commenting on the basic fact that the native must become part of the industrial complex. It explains that the problem is not simply one of relocation as it had been for the Europeans or one of movement from a rural to an urban climate. Instead, the Indian faces a movement from the isolated society of his reservation to the more cosmopolitan character of the city.

The book explains how the promise of making money or finding the apparent affluence of the white man draws the Indian to the city. His sense of adven-

ture and curiosity draws him there before he is suitably prepared to exist within such a society. The restrictiveness and uncomplementary atmosphere of the state to the reservation, is a factor for many leaving the reserve, especially the young. Cultural pressures imposed by comparing his life to that of the city dweller brings many Indians to the city.

Besides explaining why they do come to the city, the study also indicates a few reasons why the Indian should stay on the reserve, at least for the moment. Interviews show that few were successful in obtaining their goals because of their background which did not include enough education and which, in turn, limited employment opportunities. The study concludes by making several suggestions from what was learned about the problem.

The Way of the Indian - CBC documentary series booklet. Thirteen interview programs which ask the natives and the experts about the Indian's life and problems. The history of the Indian in Canada, the reservation and the basic treaties are all dealt with openly, lending tremendous insight into native background. Topically, the pros and cons of the choice between living in the city and on the reserve are discussed. Many views are expressed in the book by both white and Indian which can only improve their relationship with each other.

Indians in Transition - Gerald Walsh (McClelland and Stewart Ltd.) A study which systematically attacks the Indian problem from a sociological and historical standpoint. It is often bolstered with relevant statistics which are difficult to refute. It reveals that the roots of the problem are psychological and social and that they are interconnected with problems of human relationship (discrimination), education and poverty. Besides stating the obvious, it offers an enlightening study of various tribes, their region and their background. Upon this framework is superimposed the phenomena of industrialization so that the reader can readily realize the

plight of the Canadian Indian.

The solutions to the problem offered in this book are also unique in that they ask several pertinent questions concerning the Indian identity. A workable compromise rather than complete assimilation is urged with the appended thought that immediate action is necessary if the desired results are to be obtained.

#### OTHER AVAILABLE SOURCES

As well as the afore mentioned materials, there are many periodicals and various other sources of information which could constantly update and enlarge this section about the urban Indian. These would expose students and educators to a greater variety of ideas concerning the Indian.

In all, many of the most recent writings on the subject have been rather confident that, as Indian leader Dan George says, "our sad winter has passed". The barrage of urban values has succeeded in the shield of ancestral homage. Things so basic to his background; the family, the tribe, honor, are all being slowly replaced by necessities as leaving home to go to school, working within a community of people with mixed heritages, and applying his cunning not to the forest, but to the city.

#### Periodicals:

- The Northian (University of Saskatchewan, College of Education, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)
- Napao (Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.)

Indian Record (272 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba)

Thunderbird (47 Dundonald Street, Toronto 5, Ontario)

#### Newspapers:

The Indian News (Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Ottawa, Ontario)

Kainai News (Box 432 Cardston, Alberta)

Further information about periodicals and recent sources of information  
may be obtained from:

Indian and Northern Curriculum Resource Centre  
College of Education  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

### G. Poverty

Although Canada is generally regarded as an affluent nation the existence of poverty is as evident here as anywhere else in the world. Much of the bitterness expressed in the writings about poverty arises from the fact that Canada has the means whereby it can remove the problem. The slowness of the rest of the Canadians to admit that poverty does exist and the inability of the poor to effectively organize for action has resulted in much of the pessimism and bitterness expressed in the writings.

"The Shack Dwellers", Alden Nowlan: The Things Which Are. (Contact Press, Toronto). The poem compares the poor to homeless worms who when you "kick them in the face nothing breaks". Unable to really do anything about his plight an occasional sign of resistance or protest is offered but it is totally incongruous with their down-trodden existence. An excellent poem which shows how their only defence is their plasticity-the ability to be bent and twisted without being broken.

"The Knock", Alden Nowlan: Bread, Wine and Salt, (Clarke, Irwin & Co., Toronto, 1967) The poor must be careful how they knock when begging so that they don't upset those from whom they beg. To do this a r \_\_\_\_\_ is needed and is described in this poem.

"Summer: Downtown Montreal", I've Tasted My Blood by Milton Acorn (Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1969) Although we associate warmth, sunshine and pleasure with summer season this poem describes the city and the beggars in the summer heat. Although it is merely descriptive it ends by posing a few questions about who are the beggars. This poem could also be used as another aspect of a look at Montreal.

"Night On Skid Row", Miriam Waddington: The Glass Trumpet (Oxford U. Press, Toronto, 1966). The residence of skid row - maimed soldiers, drug addicts,

drunks, deformed and mentally retarded - are all mentioned. Their limits, their pain and suffering, their fear and their defeats are poignantly described while all that society does for them is to call the police.

"Junk Man on Front Street," Raymond Souster: So Far, So Good, Poems 1938-1968 (Oberon Press, Toronto, 1969) The poem describes a junk collector with his cart and compares him to a menial animal. The implication is that perhaps an animal even has it better.

"The Top Hat" by Raymond Souster in Fifteen Winds, A Selection of Modern Canadian Poems, edited by A.W. Purdy. (Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1969). Souster's short poem shows a shabbily dressed tramp wearing a top hat. The nonchalant attitude of the wearer gives him an added air of importance and even though the man looks ridiculous Souster applauds his imposing air. One of the few poems which is not negative and depressing in its look at the poor.

"The Disgrace" - Raymond Souster: So Far, So Good, Poems 1938-1968 (Oberon Press, Toronto, 1969) Although the house is shabby, dirty and badly in need of repair it still is "Home" for seven people and no matter what its appearance are we are reprimanded for our smugness in not recognizing it as a home. People are more important than the building is the poem's central theme.

"Gerrard Street East", Raymond Souster: So Far, So Good, Poems 1938-1968, (Oberon Press, Toronto, 1969). A downtown street is described in short clipped phrases, each adding an image to the whole picture of the odorous unkept, friendless and lonely scene. At night this is partly hidden and the night breeze gently touches all of it.

"Someone Has To Eat" by Raymond Souster in Fifteen Winds, a Selection of Modern Canadian Poems, edited by A.W. Purdy (Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1969)



Everyone cannot afford the fresh clean foods displayed in supermarkets. There are many who must buy stale bread and rejected canned goods so that they can exist. The food is seen as being as tired, worn, and haggard as those who come to buy it.

"Christ Walks in this Infernal District Too", by Malcolm Lowry in Fifteen Winds, edited by A.W. Purdy (Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1969) Although some object with the language used in the poem it is a scathing attack upon Canadian indifference to their poverty. Examples of what we reject or sneer at are given and how we look down upon them with contempt. The title implies that true Christian love and concern could help to bring an end to this situation. We reject these people and do not even consider them as humans who have feelings and emotions. This is part of Canada too and we have the power to do something about the poverty. An excellent and forceful poem which some may avoid because of its language.

"Cold-Water Flat Blues" by Len Gasparini in Fifteen Winds edited by A.W. Purdy (Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1969). Although we find a poet bemoaning his mere survival existence, he claims his cold-water flat is better than sleeping in laundromats and subways. He tries to make the best of things and even though he complains there is no bitterness. There is a chance that his poetry will sell and he can make a better living. This poem contrasts a pseudo-type of poverty which results because a person refuses to compromise with his society. (He'll be poor but a poet.) This is quite a different view from the depressed and beaten poor who hopelessly accept their existence. Again the language may be questionable to some who wish to use this poem.

"We Live in a Ricketty House" by Alexander McLachlan in A Book Of Canadian Poems edited by Dr. Carlyle King (McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1963). This poem was written before the 20th century and describes the ugliness and

dirtiness of a house in the slum area. The pious people who come to tell the poor that it is their own fault, forget, according to McLachlan, that if the Church was honest about it, its lack of love and Christian concern is the reason that poverty still exists. It is the Church's shame and disgrace that there is poverty and it is proof of its failure to do anything about it.

"Britain Street", Alden Nowlan: Bread, Wine and Salt (Clarke, Irwin and Co., Toronto, 1967). Nowlan describes a slum street in Saint John, New Brunswick as a battle scene. Children and parents are all seen as yelling and battling each other with cruel and harsh words, "even the dogs would rather fight than eat". This hard, callous exterior is only a protection, the author hopes - for words of love and gentleness underneath. Again the vocabulary may be offensive but it is typical of the language used by this type of citizen.

Legault's Place - NFB film - 10½ minutes, B&W. This film shows old man Legault living alone with his blindness in his shack. As suburbia engulfs him he finally sells out and goes to live with his son not realizing that the ridiculous price he felt he was paid for his house was only paid so that they could tear it down. This film also has possibilities in dealing with the problems of the aged, the handicapped (blind), and in the effect and impact of change upon the life of an individual.

"A Priest In The Family" a short story by Leo Kennedy in Canadian Short Stories edited by Weaver looks at the seamier side of urban life. Set in Vancouver it deals with the priest's attempts to make his faith relevant through acts of love and help to the poor. His desire to help the poor to help themselves is exposed.

Son Of A Smaller Hero by Mordecai Richler. This novel has several references to the ghetto section of Montreal. The Jews, French, and English

who live there have poverty as a common denominator. Life in this section is the background for the plot of the novel.

Hugh Garner: Cabbagetown (1951) This novel contains the case histories of residents in Toronto's worst slums.

Juan Butler: Cabbagetown Diary, (Readers' Club of Canada, 1970) This novel is another "documentary" book about life in the slums. A novel of similar tone is Ian Adams' The Poverty Wall.

Two examples of articles which deal with the poverty of Canadians. "The Real Poor In Canada - and Why We Don't Know Who They Are" by Walter Stewart in Maclean's Magazine, January, 1971.

"How the Poor Are Upsetting the Welfare Applecart" by Doris F. Shackleton, Maclean's Magazine, February, 1971. This article deals with how the poor are fighting to change "the system". How real people's problems are, and how they can be attacked. It also evaluates the effectiveness of past approaches.

## H. Handicapped

One of the categories which we have added to the original format deals with the handicapped. As another facet of how the individual views his urban environment we find that not all people have the same "normal" physical abilities to cope with the urban environment. Although the written work about the handicapped is not very extensive we feel that there is enough material available to warrant a special approach.

The poem "Roller Skate Man" by Raymond Souster in Klinck and Watters: Canadian Anthology deals with a legless cripple who manoeuvres about the city on a skate board. The city is seen from the knee-high perspective.

John Metcalf's "Robert, Standing", New Canadian Writing, 1969 is a short story about Robert Hardwick who is confined to a wheelchair. Although the problems of his handicap are apparent in the description we do realize that Robert does lead a productive life. His handicap, however, limits his scope of activities and these limitations often make him the easy target. Two "soul savers" come to Robert, not to offer the friendship and communication he longs for but to save him. Unable to communicate his need for conversation and friendship he ultimately poses the question of what would their reaction to him have been if he had been standing up and not confined to a wheelchair?

Sound the Trumpets - NFB film. 24 min. color

This film deals with the difficulties with which the crippled and aged are faced in moving about the urban environment. It pleads for forethought in planning of buildings so that these people can be more independent.

## I. Social Pressures

The lack of privacy and freedom which characterizes most urban areas brings our human shortcomings under the close scrutiny of our neighbours. Young and old alike feel the necessity to conform to certain social norms and "take the worry out of being close". So exertive is this social pressure that many throughout history have chosen to live outside it rather than attempt to keep up, hence the "hippies" and others who would rather endure society's reprimand than its values.

Being so ever-present, these social pressures have provided motivation for a great deal of literary material in book, poem, film, and song, warranting a unit of study due to their obvious relation to urbanization.

(A) POETRY - (1) "little beggar" - Antoni Gronowisz (The Fiddlehead, Number 47, Winter 1961 p. 26). The poor are especially aware of social pressure due to their inability to obtain adequate funds to keep pace with certain values concerning grooming and dress. Here we have a free verse poem describing the social plight of an outcast who must bear the jeers of the more fortunate on the city streets. They taunt him about appearance when he really needs food and love.

(2) "By the Grey Atlantic" - John Newlove (The Fiddlehead Number 79, March and April, 1969, page 67). Dead men and women react to the pressures of city life in retrospect. This is a short poem which makes its point well.

(B) MUSIC - (1) "Share The Land" - The Guess Who (Cirrus Music) The song makes social pressures more evident by asking the listener several questions concerning his place in society. It implores us to be benevolent in our affluence by being aware of what goes on and wharings with those in need rather than creating certain "musts" which the lower classes may find frustrating. The good rhythm of this song makes it especially appealing to the young.

(2) "Welfare City" from the album The Sycamore Street Singers. The lyrics

lament the high cost of living through the eyes of a common laborer. He can adequately supply his needs for sustenance but cannot easily meet the requirements of country club affluence without great personal sacrifice. City living with all its social obligations is simply too expensive.

(3) "Chanson du Pharmacien" - Vol. 2 - Felix Leclerc. None escape the brunt of social pressure created by the closeness of city life as in this song even law enforcement falls prey to its power. A girl has cut herself and goes to the pharmacy for aid only to find the druggist murdered. Her soiled hands make her a likely suspect enabling the police and people to make a quick arrest and draw accolades for their swift apprehension of the criminal.

(C) FILMS (1) "23 Skidoo": (NFB B&W 8½ minute). This is an excellent film which portrays the uselessness of some of the things for which we strive by exhibiting a deserted city in which humans and human values are not applied. Man's destructive and greedy nature and military preoccupation is also depicted.

(2) "The House That Jack Built" (NFB - color - 8 minutes). This is a cartoon take-off on "Jack and the Beanstock". Excellent animation depicts urban uniformity and the desire to break away. The sacrifices involved in stepping out of our social patterns are shown. Often, we wish to reach goals which would enhance our status only to find dissatisfaction when we arrive.

(D) (1) Mr. Ames Against Time - Philip Child - Often the forces which plague our natural existence do not add to the general good of society. This story shows a concern for the preservation of human values in a decadent society. It centers on the efforts of the protagonist to keep his dignity and decency in the Toronto underworld.

(2) The Luck Of Ginger Coffey - Brian Moore - Through high humor, shrewd social observation and authentic dialogue, the author relates the story of a self-deluding Irishman who follows a dream of success and prestige (two urban

values) to Montreal, where his illusions are replaced by reality. It portrays the struggle of the individual to commit himself to life.

(3) "The Apprenticeship Of Duddy Kravitz" - Mordecai Richler - Although a bit bawdy in places, this novel depicts the irony of the urban situation for only in complying with expected social norms can one become successful enough to operate outside them. Most of us never reach the latter point but the hero of this story climbs a fair distance as he works out of a slum background to the status of landowner.

(E) SHORT STORIES (1) "All the Years of Her Life" - Morley Callaghan (Canadian Reflections by Weaver). A young boy, employed by a drug store owner, is caught shoplifting. His employer is determined to notify the police but first informs the mother. She exhibits her urban hardness by handling the situation calmly, thus saving her son from arrest. The boy comes to appreciate his mother more as he finds he never really knew her.

(2) "Ever Try To Teach Your Wife to Drive" - R.T. Allen (Canadians-Huffman). This is a very humorous expose of one man's experiences while teaching (or trying to) his wife to drive. The neighbours as well as some physical aspects of the city become involved in his endeavors in a situation which could never be enacted outside the urban structure due to its lack of privacy and pressure to undertake such endeavours.

(3) "Don't Just Stand There" - Eric Nicol (Twice Over Lightly) The futility of trying to meet certain social pressures is adequately illustrated in this short but humorous tale. Exhibiting the urban dweller's never ending search for recreation and exercise, the author decides to be "in" by trying Vancouver's ski slopes but fails miserably.

(4) "The Legacy" - Mavis Gallant (Canadian Short Stories). Set in Montreal, this is a melodrama concerning a girl's haunting memories of a less

than happy childhood plagued by her own misfortune academically and her brother's confrontation with the law. Her mother's death and a series of arguments bring the focal point of her memories (a store) into her hands. She is unable to accept this financial "break" rationally.

(5) "Mrs. Golightly And The First Convention" - Ethel Wilson (Canadian Short Stories). This story occurs in Vancouver or at least originates there. A woman shows reluctance to accompany her husband to a convention due to the social pressures created by her lack of adequate apparel, etc., as well as those which involve leaving the family for several days. There is a happy ending in the face of all these difficulties.

(6) "This May Hurt A Little" - Eric Nicol (Canadian Reflections) A man faces the horror of going to the dentist in order that his teeth and breath meet our social standards. He is pressured to curb his emotions (pain, fear) by the fact that some brat has just lived through the experience without acting up. After excellent and humorous description of the situation, the author is once again set free - until the next appointment.



## J. Pollution

With the wealth of material being written on the subject, it would have been almost impossible for a study to be conducted on Canadian writings and communications without a unit on pollution. The obvious connection between the various aspects of pollution and urbanization make it a very suitable topic under our general theme.

Besides being the subject for poets and authors of short stories, pollution offers an excellent opportunity to examine Canadian writings in periodicals and newspapers. Industrialization is but one facet of this argument as the young undertake pollution as their pet peeve, thus implicating it with the generation gap and the war on the establishment.

Because material and views on the subject are so readily available, only two categories are considered in the following synopsis. The first is music, displayed here only because it is a more difficult source for the teacher to personally peruse. The second is comprised of a few sample poems and articles which were considered good.

(A) MUSIC - (1) "Les Fleurs de Macadam" - Ferland, Jean Pierre (Select S-7045). Recorded in French, this song tells of the smog and filth which characterize any open space (school-yards) and private property. He blames the negligence of people for the endless piles of garbage one can encounter in the city.

(2) "Good Time Living" - Capital Records - Pierre Lalonde. This song discusses industrialization in rather greedy terms as it forges ahead with seeming disregard for the environment.

(3) "Canadian Railroad Trilogy" - Gordon Lightfoot on United Artists. This song dwells on the old theme of building cities at the expense of nature and natural beauty. Rather than blame man, he blames the railroad as the symbol of progress which has destroyed once beautiful areas.

(4) "Big Yellow Taxi" Jone Mitchell on Reprise - echoes Lightfoot's theme of destroying nature so that cities can grow - "replace paradise; put up a parking lot." People seldom realize what they have sacrificed until it is gone and cannot be replaced. Good music and lyrics.

(5) "Ain't it a Sad Thing" - R. Dean Taylor - Rare Earth. Taylor exhorts the far reaching aspect of pollution for he claims that even the areas surrounding industrialized cities are suffering from their refuse. He cautions us to heed warnings of anti-pollution buffs or we may all be dead. Good lyrics protesting the defacing of nature and a snappy rhythm make this song very useful.

(6) "Canterbury Station" - Pierre Lalonde on Capital. Like Lightfoot, Lalonde sees the railroad as the source of much of the soot and ugliness which pollutes our cities. He claims we need only inspect the environs of a railway station anywhere to realize what he says is true.

(B) WRITING - (1) "Lake St. Clair" - James Reaney (Downey/Robertson/Cleaver; The Wind Has Wings, Oxford University Press, Toronto; 1968.) This comical poem suggests an animal's view of pollution. Windsor, Ontario is noted for the manufacture of automobiles and is just one area whose industrial waste is destroying our air and water. Canada's wildlife is obviously effected and thus a bear relates his distaste for what is happening.

(2) "We Can Save Our Cities" - Macleans (Maclean Hunter Ltd., Toronto, January, 1971, p.23.) This article takes a scrutinizing look at Canadian cities and sees only clogged streets through dirty air. The article also supplies a look at the future and indicates probable results and remedies to the problem.

(3) "Ten Things You Can Do About Pollution" - Constance Mungall - Chatelaine (Maclean - Hunter Ltd., Toronto, May 1970, p.16) The author is not as pes-

simistic as most concerning the urgency of controlling pollution. She claims instead that by simple common sense and a few menial tasks we can probably save our environment. The situation isn't hopeless.

(4) "Pollution: Now We Must Act" Doris Anderson (Chatelaine, Mag., 1970) takes an opposite view of Mungall and portrays pollution as a threatening enigma which requires immediate attention if we are to be saved. It offers methods of attacking the problem.



K. References and Complete Works

The one-hour C.B.C. audio-tape The Canadian City Through the Eyes of the Poet deals with some of the basic ideas that our sub-project is examining. Eli Mandel, Canadian poet and professor at York University, prepared the tape with the assistance of actor Len Birman. Using a partly historical perspective, the tape takes various poems and poets and views their interpretations of the city. It is a developmental study of the growth of the city and the growth of poetic media to comment upon this process. The tape has great value as a teacher resource and portions of it are suitable for classroom use. There are times, however, when the terminology and technical aspects of the interpretations limit the using of the entire tape in the classroom situation.

Louis Dudek: "The Poetry of the City", The English Quarterly, vol. 2, no. 2, June, 1969. This article is an excerpt from a paper Dudek presented to the first annual convention of the Canadian Council of Teachers of English (CCTE) in Calgary, Alberta in August, 1968. Dudek's analysis is of the poetry which deals with the city and the various interpretations or perspectives it has taken. The article contains many examples of the two opposing views of the city. Some of the poems mentioned are included in our project, others we have not yet found but the appropriate sections are usually quoted in the article itself. The article is a necessary teacher reference for the section which we have labelled "Faces of the city."

Straws in the Wind by Harry J. Boyle (Doubleday Canada Ltd., Toronto, 1969) is a collection of musings by the author on a wide range of topics. Many of the items first appeared in the Montreal Star and in Weekend Magazine and have been drawn together here in a collection, organized under the twelve months of the year. The entire book vacillates between an examination of nature and of the city. It is man's view of these that Boyle is examining



and commenting upon. The collection contains some excellent examples of creative and descriptive writing as well as keen observations and perceptive analyses. Sections which most directly relate to the study of the city include:

- pp 9-10 "January"
- pp 18-19 "The Pond"
- pp 24-27 "The Snow We Love"
- pp 36-37 "A City in Love"
- pp 39-42 "Dreaming in the Spring"
- pp 48 "Vacant Lots"
- pp 57 "The Window Box"
- pp 59 "Tyranny of Grass"
- pp 78 "Dog Days" (especially paragraph 4)
- pp 83-84 "Rural Post Offices"
- pp 86-94 Chapter X: "Man and His City"
- pp 107 "Country Stores" (contrasts for today's supermarket)
- pp 116 "First Fall Rain"
- pp 125-128 "The Joy of Walking"
- pp 130 "Memories"
- pp 132-134 "Flames of the City"

Although Straws in the Wind gets nostalgic it does illustrate the constant strains between living in the city and the desire to be in closer communion with nature. It alludes to the standard idea that nature represents the good life while cities represent the bad.

This collection of Boyle's writing would be a valuable asset particularly to the study of "Faces of and in the City".

Vanier, Jean: Tears of Silence (Griffin Press Ltd., Toronto, Ontario, 1970)

In this book of poetic prose we find the son of our former governor-general, G.P. Vanier, presenting a very moving expression of the dichotomy of the world without and within each person. It takes dissension, distrust, indifference and hatred and contrasts these with harmony, trust, concern, unity and love. The universal theme of brotherhood is expressed with a plea for understanding and love for our fellow man.

Each page has an accompanying photograph which gives visual reinforcement to urban problems. Although there are no references to Canadian cities



specifically, the entire book is an excellent expression of the universality of urban and human concerns. A very poignant appeal is presented to consider man as another individual with similar feelings and as another person who needs our understanding and love.

Many works are available which will provide the teacher with background material on the writers. Two such references, merely as examples, are: Desmond Pacey's Ten Canadian Poets, and M. Gnarowski's Critical Views on Canadian Writers. Most teachers of English and many libraries have material about the Canadian writers and poets. Although it is the teacher's responsibility to be familiar with this background material it does not imply that lack of such knowledge would make it impossible to use their materials.

Nagler, Mark: Indians in the City, A Study of the Urbanization of Indians in Toronto (Canadian Research Centre for Anthropology, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Ontario, 1970)

Walsh, Gerald: Indians in Transition, An Inquiry Approach (Curriculum Resource Books Series number 23, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto.)

The Way of the Indian - a booklet edited transcript of "The Way of the Indian" - 13½-hour documentary programs broadcast on CBC radio. (CBC Publications, Box 500, Toronto, Ontario)

The above three works deal with the Canadian Indian and the many problems and difficulties he encounters in our society. Various sections of these books deal specifically with industrialization and urbanization and relate directly to this project. All three works are valuable for background material and for sources for the teacher who will be examining the Indian in the city. (Further discussion of their individual content can be found in the section on the Indian in the city.)

S.D. Clark:

Urbanism and the Changing Canadian Society (1964) This scholarly writing is on the impact of urbanism in general. The content tends to be sociological



in nature.

### Novels

Many novels are available which present a combined view of the city and urban living. Some of these books have been mentioned in the specific categories under which we have chosen to work, but it is worthwhile to view the novels together, giving the teacher an opportunity to compare what these lengthier works have to offer. The novels mentioned here are divided by author:

#### Morley Callaghan:

Such is My Beloved (1934) - Morley Callaghan has always been concerned with the plight of the weak in a society that frequently compounds their misfortunes. Here Father Dowlings attempts to save the souls of two prostitutes. A very real social problem is examined and we see the various responses of members of society and of the Church. Though the novel is set in the 1930's its message and symbolism is not "dated".

More Joy in Heaven (1937) Kip Caley (reformed bank robber), upon his release from jail is hailed almost as a hero because of the success of his apparent reform. As the novel unfolds we see how he is destroyed by a society that doesn't believe that he has really reformed.

The Loved and the Lost (1951) - Montreal is the tangled, urban setting. Color, institutions, the Church, class distinctions are all dealt with. The theme of self-sacrificial love evolves from well-developed symbolism.

The Many Colored Coat (1960) Callaghan reiterates the same theme through analogies on the biblical "Joseph and his brothers" story. Montreal is the background for this innocence in the conventional world of a modern city.

#### Hugh MacLennan:

Barometer Rising (1941) Halifax is the setting for this novel. Though essentially a war story (1914-1918), this novel is also valuable as a critique of Canadian society at this time. The image of the city is sustained through-

out in a more sympathetic way than by more recent writings.

Two Solitudes (1945) This novel is based on a French-English conflict in Quebec, the distrust, animosity, problems of elders and younger generations, the Church, ends in a French-English "marriage" which provides a theoretical, but not ideal, solution.

Cross Country (1949)  
Thirty and Three (1954)  
Scotchman's Return (1960)

These three are urban, personal discussions in which MacLennan tries to see the shape and meaning of the Canadian experience. Parts of these selections are appropriate.

John Cornish: The Provincials (1951) This selection is a satire of Vancouver's culture-buying elite, conveyed with a verbose style of communication.

Gabrielle Roy: Bonheur D'Occasion or The Tin Flute (1947) The progress from innocence to experience of a Canadian race and of an individual is conveyed through this novel. It is a study of little people in the depression-ridden slums of Montreal. These "boxed" ones can not escape their place in society through any means except love.



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Periodicals

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- "Ain't it a Sad Thing" R. Dean Taylor Rare Earth  
"Big City" The Five Belles Polydor A542004  
"Big Yellow Taxi" Joni Mitchell Reprise  
"Bus Ride" Nimbus Recorders 74-0388  
"Canadian Railroad Trilogy" Gordon Lightfoot United Artists  
"Canterbury Station" Pierre Lalonde Capital  
"Chanson de Pharmacien" vol.2- Felix Leclerc  
"Christophers Movie Matinee" Dunhill S-50030  
"Color Me Canadian" Birchmount Recorders  
"Genevieve" Claude Gauthier Gama  
"Good Time Living" Pierre Lalonde Capital Records  
"I'm Gonna Be A Country Girl Again" Buffy St. Marie - Vanguard Recording Artists  
"I'm a Windowpane" Gordon Lightfoot United Artists  
"Joni Mitchell" Reprise S 56293  
"La Ville" Jean-Pierre Ferland Select Vol.5 SP 12149 MSC 648  
"Les Fleurs de Macadam" Jean-Pierre Ferland Select S-7045  
"L'Ordinaire" Robert Charlebois Gama  
"Mon Pays" Gama AA- 1081 MS 104  
"Montreal" George Lafleche Velvet Records VEL 7001  
"Night in the City" Joni Mitchell Reprise 6293  
"Of Cities and Escapes" (L.P.) London Recording Artists  
"One Toke over the Line" Quality Records KA 516X  
"Screaming Night Hog" R.C.A. D4248  
"Share the Land" Guess Who R.C.A.  
"Song to a Seagull" Joni Mitchell Reprise 56293  
"L'Appelles Ca Vivre" Jean Pierre Ferland Barclay B-60 107

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"The Canadian City Through the Eyes of the Poet" (1-hour)  
C.B.C. Audio-tape C.B.C. Learning Systems, Box 500A,  
Toronto 116, Ontario

"The City" Johnny Cowell 477-25-127

"Welfare City" The Sycamore Street Singers (album)

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Films

Alive and Still Kicking  
CBC TV, Spring, 1971

Autobiographical by A.M. Klein (La cite de memoire)

10 min. b&w NFB  
35 mm: 105B 0165 083  
16 mm: 106B 0165 083

Bonjour Toronto! (Salut Toronto!)

28 min. b&w NFB  
16 mm: 106B 0165 006

Boomsville

10 min. color NFB  
35 mm: 105C 0167 064  
16 mm: 106C 0167 064

City Scene

28 min. b&w NFB  
16 mm: 106B 0164 114

Legault's Place (Le Beau Derangement)

10½ min. b&w NFB  
35 mm: 105B 0164 147  
16 mm: 106B 0164 147

Lewis Mumford on The City Series

1. The City: Heaven and Hell (La Ville: enfer ou paradis?)

28 min. b&w NFB  
16 mm: 106B 0163 032

2. The City: Cars or People: (L'homme contre l'auto)

28 min. b&w NFB  
16 mm: 106B 0163 032

3. The City and Its Region (La Ville et sa région)

28 min. b&w NFB  
16 mm: 106B 0163 033

4. The Heart of the City (Le coeur de la ville)

28 min. b&w NFB  
16 mm: 106B 0163 034

5. The City as Man's Home (La Ville est-elle habitable?)

28 min. b&w NFB  
16 mm: 106B 0163 035

6. The City and the Future (La Ville et son avenir)

28 min. b&w NFB  
16 mm: 106B 0163 036



Once Upon A Prime Time

17 min.	b&w	NFB	
35 mm:	105B	0166	040
16 mm:	106B	0167	040

Poen

4½ min.	b&w	NFB	
35 mm:	105B	0167	024
16 mm:	106B	0167	024

Sound The Trumpets

24 min.	color		
produced by Minnesota Society for Crippled Children and adults			
-presented by Federal Department of Labor			
16 mm:	106C	0166	002

The Boy Next Door (Le petit voisin)

18 min.	color	NFB	
35 mm:	105C	0162	026
16 mm:	106C	0162	026

The Golden Age

29½ min.	b&w	NFB	
16 mm:	106B	0158	063

The House That Jack Built

8 min.	color	NFB	
35 mm:	105C	0167	095
16 mm:	106C	0167	095

The Quiet Racket (Le campeur decampe)

7½ min.	color	NFB	
35 mm:	105C	0166	045
16 mm:	106C	0166	045

The Red Kite

17 min.	color	NFB	
35 mm:	105C	0165	117
16 mm:	106C	0165	117

The Transition (Transition)

17½ min.	b&w	NFB	
16 mm:	106B	0164	012

The Yellow Leaf

29 min.	b&w	NFB	
16 mm:	106B	0156	040

23 Skidoo (23 Skidoo)

8 min.	b&w	NFB		
35 mm:	105B	0164		088
16 mm:	106B	0164		088

Where Mrs. Whalley Lives (Le Monde de Madame Whalley)

28 min.	b&w	NFB		
16mm:	106B	0166		010

## VII. TEAM PROGRESS IN YEAR I

Our first major difficulty was the formulation of a team. The original proposal and framework for the project was the product of one person - the team leader. Other problems and changes had occurred which made team work more difficult to organize.

Originally, Mr. Unger's historical study of urban development had been approved because it related more closely with the other three Saskatchewan projects in Saskatoon. When Mr. Unger left the Regina school system, our project was contacted to replace his. Preliminary arrangements with the Regina Board of Education had been tentatively made. At the final board meeting in June our project was approved and we agreed to work within many of the arrangements which Mr. Unger had proposed for his project. The biggest difficulty with the arrangement was in regards to release time, especially later in the year, for other members of the team.

### Team development

In the first three months after school reconvened in September, 1970, the team leader worked alone. Part of his time was spent doing reading and locating materials. The remainder of the time was devoted to speaking to groups of teachers to make them aware of Project Canada West and to find interested persons for the team.

In this stage of public relations each high school in Regina was contacted. Letters were sent to the heads of the English departments and of the social studies departments in each of the schools to acquaint them with the project and to inform them that the team leader was available to attend one of their department meetings to explain PCW more fully. The English departments of three of the high schools accepted the offer - none of the social studies departments replied except from the school in which the project is located.

General interest and enthusiasm was expressed by each group who heard the project. One English department organized a reading assignment for their senior students. These students went through the material in their school library and located and recorded all that they found which was related to Urbanization in Canada. When completed, their dossier was turned in to the project.

After a similar presentation to the English department in Campbell, the team leader found two fellow teachers who expressed interest in working on the project. After further discussion Mrs. Lys and Mr. Lovering agreed to become part of the team.

#### Release time

Because arrangements with the board had been for 1/5 release time for the team leader, meetings and discussions by the members of the team were carried out during noon hours and after school. No other arrangements were possible until the end of the first semester (end of January).

Arrangements for the second semester had to be made in such a way that better utilization of release time would result. The one-hour per day, the last scheduled class hour, was no longer adequate. This had been the first semester arrangement but department meetings, staff meetings and after school staff responsibilities (i.e. directing a drama production) often made it impossible to leave the school to do the desirable research and reading at the university, etc. For the second semester the release time was placed into one day (Tuesday) and the team leader's classes were organized in such a way that he did not meet his students that day, or, as in two classes, another teacher taught the students a current events unit. The two other team members were not given release time but an acceptable arrangement was finally arrived at (March) to facilitate meetings. Mrs. Lys was released on Tuesdays from her T.V. assignment to work on the project and arrangements were finally made to have a substitute take one of Mr. Lovering's classes. The

final arrangement and only meeting time for the entire team was on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:30. All other work and consultations were done after school, evenings, and weekends.

The release time problem was one of the most difficult to overcome. Much time was spent in trying to find a workable solution, and in one case, because of a staff member's reaction, a complete revision had to be found to make the meetings of the ~~team~~ a reality.

Staff reaction to the project varied. Many teachers were interested in what we were doing and were encouraging and helpful. Others, however, reacted in ways which the team did not find very constructive. It was difficult to keep all teachers informed as to how we were progressing. However, good staff relations, especially within the two departments in which we teach, is essential.

Another concern of the team was the extra-curricular duties that we were expected to continue performing. We felt our project ought to receive priority in our time allocation. Because this was the initial year our extra-curricular activities had been assigned and we were still expected to fulfill them. The result was even less time for work on the project. Any team which undertakes such a project would be well-advised to see that their teaching time and other duties are well-defined so as to free the personnel for the best utilization of their release time.

Until we were able to obtain a workroom in the school, members of the team had to bring material to sessions and take them back at the end of each work period. Near the end of the school year we were able to obtain a workroom where all our material could be placed. It made meetings easier and it allowed us to leave our material organized so that any member who had some free time could come and do some work without having to waste time locating and organizing material.

Because the nature of the project requires a great deal of time in reading and locating material we had hoped to use various people who might have free time and an interest in English. Various approaches were suggested as to how we could get through all the material. As pointed out earlier, an assignment was given to a senior class to go through the Canadian literature in their school library. The team obtained this dossier from the students of Martin Collegiate and found much of it most useful.

Another approach was to contact retired or semi-retired English teachers. With their background and excellent experience we felt that they were ideal choices. Most of these people were busy or still teaching and felt that they would not be able to assist us. Teachers who had resigned for family reasons were considered but those contacted were not willing to become involved because of their families.

During the year eight presentations about Project Canada West were made to university education classes. It was from this group that we received a great amount of assistance. Dr. J. Schaller, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan, Regina permitted seventeen students from two of his classes to assist us. In a two week reading blitz these students were organized into teams and assigned various areas of reading to locate material. These students were exempt from one of his class assignments and the work they did for the project was included in their final evaluation as part of their class requirements. Had it not been for the efforts of this group the amount of material which we have collected would have been much smaller. The members of the team were responsible for assessing the value of their collected material and for categorizing into the areas we felt it would be most useful. The co-operation of the professors in the College of Education has been excellent and their encouragement and assistance was, at times, invaluable.

#### VIII. PROPOSAL FOR SUB-PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IN 1971-1972

In the coming year members of the "Urbanization as seen through Canadian Writings" team will be concerned with a number of related issues. The precise order and emphasis of each will be determined by priorities of immediate or secondary needs as determined by the team members, release time, budget, etc..

Although our report lists numerous references, we feel that one of our efforts will be to prepare an anthology of Canadian poetry which is related to the urban theme. Since poetry is more difficult to obtain we feel that an anthology of Canadian poetry which deals with urbanization as our project sets it forth would be most useful. We would be concerned with contacting publishers and poets for permission to use their poetry, or to purchase the right to use it for our anthology. We are also considering an anthology of short stories on the urban theme as described in this sub-project.

A second area of concern would be in developing a small unit of materials for trial purposes in the classroom situation. This pilot project would be used in one or more classes on a trial basis and for purposes of testing the validity of the materials, the methods and processes, and the methods of evaluation themselves. Such formative evaluation would assist us in further selection and rejection of materials.

In this area we would be concerned with some form of pre-test which will generally assess the student's knowledge of Canadian writings and writers. We also hope to formulate some means whereby a teacher could assess his or her own community's resources for certain types of studies.

Once material have been selected for testing we hope to formulate some objectives for the selected materials and to set forth strategies and techniques which will achieve those objectives. Certain cognitive objectives will be more easily testable while the more subjective or behavioralistic



type of objective will depend upon the teacher's professional competence and judgement for evaluation.

Because of the nature of this sub-project our first concern will be to develop useful and useable material for English classes but we will be constantly suggesting correlative activities which, hopefully, will provide students with experiences from the social sciences. We then see students using these experiences in their own creative writings, thus returning the activity to the field of English in its broader sense of written, visual, and verbal expression.

Evaluation itself will be one of our primary concerns. We will require outside assistance from various university personnel in this area. The evaluation will deal with both the evaluation of the content of the materials we have selected but also, and perhaps more importantly, the evaluation strategies used within the classroom situation. How do we assess the needs of the students in the class in which the materials will be used? How is an assessment made of the community resources available to the class for use in their own class study? Who will make this assessment? What pre-tests can be given to students? How do we utilize these pre-tests for content selection and for selection of teaching strategies? What methods of instruction are best for the various works the students will be examining or studying - individually or as a class? How do we evaluate the effectiveness of these teaching methods? How do we evaluate the student's responses and their assigned activities? We hope to make some progress in answering these questions as they relate to our project in the coming year.

The entire question of evaluation and its many phases is an area which we feel will require a great deal of time and consultation. We feel that contact and consultation with those university personnel who are specialists in the fields of literature, teaching methods for English, and in evaluation

techniques will be vital to effective use of the material in the classroom and in the success and worth of the entire project. Such contacts may require team personnel to consult with universities outside of Saskatchewan.

We hope to continue collecting materials which are related to our theme. At the same time as we are expanding our selection we also hope to be refining it; choosing materials which are more appropriate and eliminating the less useful examples. At this point we have not been any more selective in our selections than in choosing those which fit the theme. Needless to say some are more effective, more appropriate, or more useful than others and some qualitative selection will have to be done.

We hope that anyone who reads this report and can offer us constructive criticisms will do so. Also, anyone who can suggest Canadian poems short stories, novel, etc. which we have not been included in this first report and which deal with some aspect of our urbanization theme, we would be most anxious to hear from them. For larger or long works, author, title and other particulars of sources would be necessary. Copies of shorter poems or short stories properly annotated would be gratefully received.

The field of Canadian literature is so vast that we have not dealt with all of it nor can we expect to. We, therefore feel that it would be extremely desirable for us to be in contact with other areas of Canada in which work is being done on some aspect of Canadian literature which may have relevance to our project. We would exchange ideas and materials and by such contacts improve and enlarge on our materials. Such sharing would entail travel but we feel that such trips would be beneficial in keeping ourselves and others informed about what is happening on the Canadian literature scene.

IX. PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1971-1972

Release time .....	\$ 5,000 00
Consultants to the project .....	1,500.00
from the field of -English	
-Canadian literature	
-teaching method for English	
-evaluation:	
Materials, travel, purchases of publishing rights, and other project needs. (ie. substitutes) .....	2,500.00
project needs. (ie. substitutes)	<hr/>
	<hr/>
total	\$ 9,000.00