



MEMBERS'

Newsletter



BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

32 ISABELLA STREET, TORONTO 5, ONTARIO.

April 24, 1963

Seminar on the Metropolitan Community—150 regular participants and guests attended the final session of the Bureau's special winter seminar, *The Metropolitan Community*, conducted with the University of Toronto. Walter H. Blucher, international planning consultant, was the final lecturer speaking on *The Future of the Metropolis*.

The sixteen weekly sessions were attended by eighty-five officers from forty-three organizations representing municipal and provincial governments, business, health and welfare organizations, ratepayer groups and universities. At each session, an important function of the city was analyzed by a guest lecturer or a panel of experts to give participants a better understanding of the forces influencing urban development. The wide interest shown in the series reflects a growing desire in Metro Toronto for greater understanding of community problems and municipal organization.

Municipal Capital Investment—The Department of Trade and Commerce estimates that municipal investment for capital works and repairs during the current year will increase by 8% over 1962 to total \$1.2 billion in 1963. Total public and private investment in Canada will advance at just half this rate —4%— increasing from \$8.7 to \$9.1 billion over the previous year. This sharp increase in the growth of municipal investment serves as a timely backdrop for a forthcoming Bureau analysis of capital investment in Metro. Watch for it!

Hospital Grants—The Metro Chairman reportedly is ready to recommend that Metro again offer hospital construction grants of \$1,000 per bed, a policy abandoned in 1957. Last year, the Bureau gave qualified support to Metro's re-entry into this field (see *Bulletin — Financing Hospital Construction — September 1962.*) but it was felt that a flat *per bed* grant was not a satisfactory way to distribute such assistance. The advantage of Metro grants is that an area wide government can adopt a grant formula that encourages the distribution of new hospital facilities according to areal need. Straight grants of \$1,000 per bed fail to exploit this opportunity. A grant formula is needed that recognizes shortages of hospital facilities in particular parts of the Metropolitan area.

Annual Meeting—An announcement of the Bureau's Annual Meeting will be made shortly. A number of important projects currently being developed will be presented at this meeting scheduled for late May.