

News briefs

Defence Minister Barney Danson visited the headquarters of NATO's Allied Command Atlantic at Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A., on November 21, where he met with Admiral Harry Train, the recently appointed Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT). Canada has a permanent commitment to contribute one destroyer to NATO's multi-national naval force, the Standing Naval Force Atlantic (STANAVFORLANT), which operates under SACLANT control. Commodore Gordon L. Edwards of Medicine Hat, Alberta, is the present commander of STANAVFORLANT.

A \$60,000-grant for a study of obligations for legal support after the breakdown of a marriage has been awarded to the Institute of Law Research and Reform of Alberta and the Alberta Department of Social Services and Community Health. It is among 13 National Welfare grants announced recently by federal Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin.

Ottawa's City Hall is now offering information on municipal business in 22 languages. The service is operated by volunteers from City Hall staff who speak several languages. A list giving the names and phone numbers of the volunteers has been distributed to ethno-cultural groups in the city.

Toronto's Over 55, a non-profit body financed by the Federal Government, is helping people over 55 find jobs. A spokesman for the agency, Charles MacIntosh, says the fact that many senior citizens are being hired reflects a new mood for firms. "They're taking a different view of older people now, and we're seeing people in their seventies being productive in all fields."

The Plains Indian Cultural Survival School, Calgary, Alberta, will be the first in Alberta, and the second of its kind in

Canada. Students from various backgrounds — Sarcee, Blackfoot, Cree and Métis — from Grades 9 to 12 will learn Indian culture, languages, values and religious studies in addition to regular departmental subjects.

"Don't Bring it Back", is a campaign of Agriculture Canada to alert Canadian travellers to the danger of accidentally bringing foreign insect pests or plant and animal diseases into the country. More than a thousand such pests are intercepted at Canadian customs annually. Foreign diseases and pests that have entered Canada in the past have caused millions of dollars damage to farms and forests.

The Foreign Investment Review Agency has approved a proposed \$179-million investment by a subsidiary of Imperial Oil Ltd. in exchange for a minority interest in western oil and gas land holdings of Canadian Exploration Ltd. of Calgary.

British Columbia Forest Products Ltd. plans to raise its U.S. newsprint price to \$345 (U.S.) per ton from \$320, effective February 1.

A Saskatchewan company is offering Canada's first prepaid legal services plan to its insurance clients. One of two plans offered by the Co-operative Fire and Casualty Company would pay legal fees for employees of a participating company in such transactions as buying and selling homes and drawing up wills. It is available to employers at a cost of about \$25 a year per family. A more expensive plan would cover fees for legal services required in divorce and Criminal Code proceedings.

A \$61-million fishing port will be established at Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, as part of a \$500-million plan for provincial fisheries development, Newfoundland Fisheries Minister Carter announced recently.

Alberta government revenues from oil and gas royalties and from the purchase and rental of leases and licences rose to \$2.5 billion during the first nine months of 1978 from \$1.9 billion a year earlier.

The largest-ever financing agreement — a \$1.2-billion confirmed line of credit to Algeria represented by the Banque Algérienne de développement (BAD) — has been announced by the Export Development Corporation.

The Manitoba government is offering provincially-owned log cabins for public sale at two resort sites in the province. The 440-square-foot cabins, all on Crown

land, are offered with renewable 21-year leases as a condition of sale.

Manitoba and the federal Department of Indian Affairs have made a \$14,000-contribution to the Federal-Provincial Committee for Humane Trapping. The committee, which consists of wildlife management representatives, biologists, an engineer, a trapper from the Canadian Trappers Federation, a humane society representative and a veterinary pathologist, co-ordinates and encourages the development of humane trapping methods and devices for taking fur-bearing animals.

The former president of Syncrude Canada Ltd. reports that there are several experimental projects now being considered for methods of recovering carbonate oil. Apparently, Canada's largest potential oil reserve, called the "Carbonate Trend", contains 1.6 trillion barrels of oil, compared with about one trillion barrels of oil in Alberta's oil sands. Current proved oil reserves in Canada total six billion barrels. The oil content of the "Trend" is also said to be 70 times greater than the total output of production in the world for 1977.

Collectively bargained settlements in the third quarter of 1978 provided a higher average rate of wage increase than those in the second quarter of 1978, according to a report issued by Labour Canada. The 189 major settlements during the period produced average annual increases in base rates of 6.8 per cent in compound terms. The comparable figure for the second quarter of 1978 was 6.4 per cent. Sixty-six of the settlements in the third quarter were classified as one-year agreements, 92 were classified as two-year agreements and 31 as three-year agreements.

Canadian retail sales reached \$6.16 billion in September, up 6 per cent from the August figure.

Dr. Charles R. Scriver of Montreal's McGill University was recently awarded the Allan Award at a meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics, held in Vancouver. Dr. Barton Childs, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, who presented the award, referred to Dr. Scriver as the "Jean Monnet of medical genetics", and noted that the Canadian scientist had helped organize the Quebec Network for Genetic Medicine, the Committee for Improvement of Hereditary Disease Management and the National Food Bank.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.