

## Oceans

### **New strategy announced**

Fisheries and Oceans Minister Tom Siddon announced on September 29 a long-term action plan for the development of Canada's oceans economy. The *Oceans Strategy* was aimed at securing maximum economic, scientific and sovereignty benefits from Canada's three oceans. Mr. Siddon explained, "The oceans sector thrives on exports, and exports of Canadian products and technologies create new jobs for Canadians. The next five years will be critical to our oceanic, manufacturing and services sector. . . . We must build on Canada's strength in ocean science and technology to reap the economic benefits that the oceans offer" (Fisheries and Oceans communiqué, September 29).

## Foreign Policy

### **Public opinion poll results**

The Department of External Affairs made public on August 14 the results of a public opinion survey which it had commissioned in April 1987. Carried out by The Longwoods Research Group Ltd. of Toronto, the survey covered major areas of Canada's external relations, including South Africa and apartheid, aid, Central America, East-West relations and arms control, sovereignty, trade and Canada-US relations.

Among the results summarized by the Department were:

- highest priorities for Canada in external relations should be: international peace; Canada's independence and control over its own affairs; acid rain; arms control; Canada-US relations, in that order.
- Canada's greatest effectiveness in external relations over the previous few years were in the areas of: Canada-US relations; Third World poverty and hunger; Canada's independence and control over its own affairs; international peace; and international cooperation in the UN and other multilateral organizations.
- 60 percent were not concerned about the situation in Nicaragua, while 86 percent believed Canada should have some arm's-length involvement in Central America, for instance, by actively supporting the Central American efforts to find a peaceful solution themselves.
- 66 percent said Canada should pursue independent policies even if this led to problems in its US relations and 74 percent did not think Canada pushed its own point of view strongly enough in its dealings with the US.
- just over 50 percent believed the existence of nuclear weapons made war more likely, and 59 percent said current practices and new developments in nuclear weaponry made war more likely.
- the US was perceived by 58 percent to threaten Canada's "legal right" to the Canadian Arctic, while 37 percent selected the USSR
- while 57 percent felt informed about the free trade discussions and 43 percent did not, 60 percent supported a free trade agreement and 32 percent were opposed.

The survey encompassed a national random sample of 1,011 residents 18 years of age and older (External Affairs communiqué, August 14).

## Science and Technology

### **Suzuki critical**

Biologist and broadcaster David Suzuki said in an August interview that Canadian scientists would likely never compete with international researchers because they lacked financial support from the government. "We're still basically hewers of wood and drawers of water. . . . Canadians are fooling themselves in thinking that we are a highly industrialized country — we're not. . . . We have had outstanding people in many, many areas but we have never had a climate that would encourage these people to . . . do their work here. . . . Children today growing up in Canada do not have role models of people who are world class in science and technology" (*Ottawa Citizen*, August 20).

## Environment

### **Rain forests**

A group of thirty-four Canadian groups and individuals — including Pollution Probe, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Assembly of First Nations, Greenpeace and biologist David Suzuki — told Finance Minister Michael Wilson in a September 8 submission that Canada's \$300 million annual contribution to World Bank development programs helped contribute to the "relentless destruction of the world's rain forests [causing] the greatest biological disaster ever perpetrated by man, creating a spasm of extinction unequalled since the disappearance of the dinosaurs." The group urged Mr. Wilson, as Canadian governor for the World Bank, to persuade the federal Cabinet to take steps to stop the rain forests' destruction, and to propose certain measures at the World Bank annual meeting, including:

- making public the Bank's Canadian executive director's voting record on loan applications;
- introducing rules to ensure public disclosure of project and program documents;
- establishing a process for public notification of projects being considered for World Bank funding;
- ensuring access for any interested parties to the project-review and decision-making processes.

The group's submission also said that fundamental changes in World Bank procedures were needed to ensure that future loans were made only to environmentally sustainable projects that respected the cultural integrity of native people (*Ottawa Citizen*, September 9).

## Immigration

### **Illegal aliens and refugee policy**

Employment and Immigration Minister Benoît Bouchard announced on July 30 that the federal Cabinet had