

# Canada Weekly

Volume 1, No. 47

November 28, 1973



Ottawa, Canada.

- James Bay giant power project halted by court injunction, 1
- First 1976 Olympic coins to be issued next month, 2
- TV film of NAC Orchestra at Bath Festival, 3
- Boom in agricultural products expected to continue, 3
- Canadian skaters do well at Prague, 3
- Seaway gives priority to vessels carrying petroleum products, 3
- Suspended oysters — a first for North America, 4
- New shotgun pellet may end lead poisoning of waterfowl, 5
- Trade and tariffs committee, 5
- Anik III launch set for 1975, 5
- Farm in a computer, 6
- Women in the news, 6
- Holidays becoming more popular — especially in Canada, 6
- Who's head of house?, 6
- Ottawa and Edmonton play for Grey Cup, 6

## James Bay giant power project halted by court injunction

Quebec's massive James Bay hydro-electric development project, one of the largest and ambitious of its kind ever undertaken, was stopped on November 15 when Justice Albert Malouf of the Quebec Superior Court granted an injunction that ordered thousands of construction workers to cease work and evacuate the site.

The judgment came almost a year after the Indians of Quebec Association, representing about 28,000 native people in the James Bay area, began legal action to stop the project on the grounds that it was damaging the ecology, curtailing their hunting and fishing sources, and violating their property rights. Doubt was expressed that such a large project was essential to Quebec's development.

The decision puts at least a temporary stoppage to the \$6-billion program that involves the diversion of three rivers, construction of four dams, powerhouses, three airports and 600 miles of highway to harness the energy of La Grande River flowing into James Bay.

In a 174-page document, Justice Malouf stated that the area — some 137,337 square miles covering one fifth of Quebec, or twice the size of Britain — could not be developed with-

out the prior consent of its native inhabitants. He warned of "devastation" in the area if work continued at this time and he ordered the developers to "cease trespassing and causing damages to the environment and the natural resources of the territory".

To the developers, the James Development Corporation, the James Bay Energy Corporation and some 25 contractors, the judgment does not mean that the project has been cancelled, only that construction must cease until a final ruling is reached.

Premier Robert Bourassa of Quebec stated on November 15 that the injunction would be appealed.

### Developers' stand

The developers have countered the native people's claim by stating that only 2,492 square miles — or about 2 per cent of the territory — would be flooded and that the Indians and Eskimos had already largely given up their traditional way of life, depending less and less on fishing and hunting for their livelihood.

Ecologists have opposed the project stating that it should be halted until an analysis of possible damage to the environment could be made.

