

## Children's lives (Cont'd from P. 2)

public transportation facilities appropriate to their particular needs, especially during adolescence;

- violence in sport and the degree to which it is supported by adults;
- their desire that schools be prepared to teach them more of the skills needed for living in our complex society - a task which young people see fewer and fewer families undertaking with respect to their own children - with a particular emphasis on family life education; and
- the future. It appears that young people are much more concerned about the future than is the general public. Naturally employment is an issue with them, but they also feel great anxiety about the deteriorating global environment, the plight of children in other parts of the world and the threat of nuclear war.

### Recommendations for future action

...The Canadian Commission for the International Year of the Child is concerned about the uneven and fragmentary nature of existing structures and programs concerned with children at all levels of government. At the federal level there is no central focus for the nation's concern for its youngest citizens....

Canadian children are not just a family or a provincial responsibility; they are the responsibility of all the levels of government we elect to represent us. A mechanism must be devised to ensure that this responsibility is properly shared.

The Year of the Child has been a time to reflect upon and to assess the situation of children in Canada. However, in order for the year to have a lasting and permanent impact, there must be a way of ensuring that children's needs are kept in the forefront, that new perceptions of the rights of the child are reflected in long-term planning, and that the specific re-

commendations developed by the commission are acted upon. To achieve this, we recommend that:

- a reference point be established for children within the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs; and
- an implementation committee be struck as a subcommittee of the above to receive the recommendations of the Canadian Commission for the International Year of the Child and to oversee their implementation. This implementation committee could consist of both members of Parliament and senators or a separate Senate committee could be struck.

### Provincial support

Recognizing that most decisions affecting children are taken at the provincial or territorial levels, we thank the premiers of each province and their territorial counterparts for their support of the work of the Canadian Commission during the International Year of the Child. We urge them to continue this support by establishing the means for ensuring that the recommendations contained in the *National Agenda for Action for Children* receive due consideration by their governments. Therefore, we recommend that responsibility centres be established by provincial and territorial governments where these do not already exist.

To establish a place for children and youth within the Federal Government, we recommend that the Federal Government establish a responsibility centre within the most appropriate federal structure to examine and initiate legislation and departmental policies affecting children. This centre should have a co-ordinator with deputy minister status and a policy link with Cabinet.

In order to support the important role of non-governmental organizations, acting collectively or separately with respect to all levels of government, and to strengthen their capacity to innovate, to advocate, to evaluate and to criticize programs affecting the needs of children and youth in Canada, we recommend that:

- a coalition committee of non-governmental organizations or an advocacy committee be established to continue the objectives of the Canadian Commission so that the spirit and intent of the commission is maintained in the future; and
- the Canadian Council on Children and Youth act as a facilitator to develop such an on-going committee.

## News briefs

**Dennis McDermott** won re-election recently for a second term as president of the Canadian Labour Congress. The two executive vice-presidents, Shirley Carr and Julien Major, were returned by acclamation. The six administration-backed candidates for general vice-presidents also were returned by acclamation.

**The Alberta government-owned Pacific Western Airlines Ltd.** plans a \$500-million expansion in the next five years. There will also be new corporate colours and logo. Rhys Eyton, president, told the company's annual meeting that the new corporate identification will be phased in during the next three years. PWA plans the purchase of an additional nine Boeing 737s with options on another three and acquisition of four 767s with options on two more. These aircraft, costing a total of \$450 million, are scheduled to be in service by 1984. Accompanying them will be new hangars to be constructed in Calgary, Winnipeg, Vancouver and possibly Edmonton.

**The number of federal public servants** decreased by 2.9 per cent in 1979 reports the Public Service Commission of Canada. There were 266,865 public servants employed across the country on December 31, 1979, compared to 275,785 a year earlier. This represented a real decrease of 7,883 workers because some were removed from coverage by the Public Service Employment Act, the commission's definition of a public servant. This does not include members of the RCMP, military personnel or employees of most Crown corporations.

**A Toronto man**, last of a line of Scottish pioneers, has astonished the staff of a Perthshire museum recently by walking in unannounced with a piece of his heritage. Alexander Cooke went to the Museum of Scottish Tartans in Comrie, Scotland to present a tartan dress suit brought to Canada in 1817 by his great-great-grandfather John Stewart. "This suit has been handed down from generation to generation," he said. The suit, in Royal Stewart tartan, has been dated by one expert at about 1790. "For its age the suit is absolutely in superb condition. This is a very important piece from that period and it is undoubtedly a great treasure for Scotland," museum curator Dr. Micheil MacDonald said.

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