

## News briefs

**Prime Minister Trudeau** attended the funeral of USSR President Leonid Brezhnev on November 15. Mr. Trudeau met with Mr. Brezhnev twice in his 14 years as prime minister, once when he made an official visit to the Soviet Union in 1971 and again at Helsinki in 1975.

**Canada ranked fourth** in the world in terms of telephone density as Canadians placed more than 23 billion telephone calls in 1981, according to statistics compiled by the TransCanada Telephone System (TCTS). The total investment by TCTS members in building and equipment increased to \$21.2 billion in 1981 from \$18.9 billion in the previous year.

**According to Statistics Canada**, the provincial and territorial governments reported 10 199 388 passenger automobile registrations during the 1981 licence year. Registrations of trucks and buses totalled 3 137 987 and motor-cycles numbered 406 871.

**Pope Jean Paul II** will visit Canada in 1984 according to an announcement by the president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Most Reverend Henri Légaré, following a meeting in Rome. The visit to Canada, the first by any Pope, will probably take place during the autumn and should last about ten days to allow him to travel to different regions of Canada.

**Infomart of Toronto** has announced that it will supply a complete Canadian-developed videotex system for the Buick Motor division of General Motors Corporation of Detroit, US. Telidon terminals will be linked with Buick's computers in Flint, Michigan, making available to dealers and customers across the country product information, pictures of new cars and accessories, pricing, details on maintenance and other information, all updated almost instantly.

**Voters in Alberta** returned Premier Peter Lougheed and his Progressive Conservatives to office in provincial elections November 2. Mr. Lougheed's party took 75 seats, one more than in 1979 when the last provincial election was held. New Democrats and Independents took two seats each. Mr. Lougheed has been the province's premier since 1971.

**Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau** was returned to office November 14 for an eighth term. Mr. Drapeau, 66, took 171 140 votes, Jean Doré 128 509 and Henri-Paul Vignola 52 685.

**New procedures** to reduce duplica-

tion and allow tighter co-ordination in the audit of recipients of funds from more than one federal department, or from one or more federal departments and a provincial government, were announced by Treasury Board President Herb Gray recently. Upon implementation of the new policy, which was developed by the Office of the Comptroller General of Canada, a recipient should only be audited once on behalf of all contributors.

**Sofati Limited** of Montreal has been awarded a 30-month contract worth \$250 million for the construction of 32 bus and truck maintenance centres and two maintenance personnel training schools in Algeria. Sofati, a construction, procurement and trading company with wide experience in the francophone countries of Africa, will act as project manager. The Canadian content of the project, worth close to \$190 million, will be financed with a \$160-million credit to Algeria by the federal Export Development Corporation.

**Health and Welfare Canada**, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Manitoba Department of Health and the Manitoba Inter-agency Council on Smoking and Health have launched a pilot project throughout the province to encourage people, especially those in the 25- to 45-year-old age group, to stop smoking. The program, "Time to Quit", has three components: a self-help booklet provides smokers with a selection of strategies to assist them in giving up smoking and staying non-smokers; a three-part television series to encourage smokers to use the booklet; and a guide for community groups responsible for organizing the campaign locally.

**Preliminary figures** indicate that loans made under the Small Businesses Loans Act for the first six months of 1982 amounted to \$221 402 824 representing 8 289 loans. This compares to 9 146 loans for \$262 299 178 made during the same period in 1981. Under the legislation, which came into effect in January 1961, a small business enterprise in Canada whose gross revenue does not exceed \$1.5 million may obtain guaranteed loans from chartered banks and other designated lending institutions. The loans, which are used to purchase fixed or movable equipment, purchase or build premises, modernize existing facilities or purchase land for the operation of a business, must be secured and may be repayable over ten years.

**The Canada Oil and Gas Lands**

Administration has approved a six-well drilling program for Shell Canada Resources Limited offshore Nova Scotia. Approval for the over-all drilling program, under an exploration agreement announced June 4, includes approval for the company to use the dynamically-positioned, semi-submersible Sedco 709. Built in Halifax in 1977, the rig will drill exploratory wells in water depths ranging from 100 to 1 500 metres. It will operate offshore Nova Scotia for the next three years. The first well planned by Shell, Shubenacadie H-100, to be drilled about 255 kilometres southeast of Halifax, will be drilled to a projected total depth of 4 350 metres in 1 467 metres of water.

**A committee** studying the issue of amending the Indian Act to eliminate sex discrimination has tabled its report. Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development John Munro said that all Indian bands would be given the opportunity to comment on the contents of the report. The standing committee on Indian affairs and northern development has also been asked to review other issues involving the status, development and responsibility of band governments on Indian reserves as well as the financial relationships between the federal governments and Indian bands.

**The Canadian Hydrographic Service** has added two high-speed survey launches to carry out marine charting surveys in Hudson Bay and the Great Lakes. The 10.4-metre launches, called the *Navigator* and the *Niobe*, were built by C and C Yachts Manufacturing Limited of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Before starting survey work, they will be equipped with sophisticated surveying instruments at Burlington, Ontario. Fully equipped the launches cost more than \$200 000.

*Canada Weekly* is published by the External Information Programs 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 the editor, Joanna Kerr.

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

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

*Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.*

**Canada**

ISSN 0384-2312