

**Mr. Trudeau to attend Commonwealth Caribbean meeting**

The Prime Minister will visit the Commonwealth Caribbean countries of Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Guyana this month.

Mr. Trudeau will leave Ottawa on April 24 for Trinidad and Tobago, following which he will visit Barbados and Guyana before continuing to Jamaica on April 28, where he will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting from April 29 to May 6.

The Prime Minister will be discussing questions of mutual interest with Dr. Eric Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Prime Minister Errol Barrow of Barbados, and Prime Minister Forbes Burnham of Guyana.

**Subarctic Indians – Stamp issue**

Four 8-cent stamps issued on April 4, featuring the Subarctic Indians, are part of the continuing series on Canadian Indian culture, depicting artifacts, way of life, dress, and symbolism.

The artifacts, photographed by Ray Webber, are a drum, a scorched caribou scapula bone, a *mitishi* (beaded charm), a woman's hat, a decorated bear skull, a toy bear, and a model canoe.

The way-of-life stamp features the dance of *Kutchu-Kutchin*, drawn by A.H. Murray from an original lithograph by M. & N. Hanhart.

Lewis Parker sketched the ceremonial costume of the Kutchin tribe for the dress stamp, and Georges Beaupré designed the graphic symbolism stamp, which includes an Ojibwa thunderbird and a decorative strip from the coat of a Naskapi.

**History of people**

The Subarctic region extends from the Labrador coast, through Quebec, northern Ontario and the northern prairies across the Mackenzie River basin and into Alaska. Living in this vast region are Indians of two language groups: the Athapaskan, distantly related to certain Asian groups, and the Algonkian. The Athapaskans, which are the western group, include Kutchin, Hare, Dogrib, Yellowknife, Kaska, Slave, Sekani, Beaver and Chipewyan Indians. The Algonkians include Ojibwas,

Crees, Mistassini-Crees, Montagnais, Naskapis, and the now extinct Beothuks.

In the harsh Subarctic, where food was scarce, people were widely scattered. During winter they hunted, in groups of about 20 relatives, in their own isolated territories. In summer, the hunting parties, which formed a



single band, often gathered at a good fishing spot or a trading post.

Housing was light, portable and easily assembled. The most common type was the conical lodge. Foundation poles were simple to find and erect, and the light outer shells of bark or skin were easy to carry from one campsite to another. Encampments usually contained two to five dwellings, each housing one or more families. The Indians built racks to dry meat, to hold supplies, and to set out bones in respect for dead game animals.

The northern natives, often on the move, learned to adapt to summer and winter travel. They used canoes, specially in the East, where many bodies of water criss-crossed the dense forests and the muskeg. Although canoe styles varied from region to re-

gion, the birchbark model was ideal, since it was light and easy to lift. Water transportation was less common in the West, although in the late 1800s the mountain Indians invented the moose-skin boat for returning downriver from their winter camps. These craft, some as large as 40 feet long and seven feet wide, had a larger carrying capacity than canoes. Moose-skin boats usually drifted with the current, although paddles were used in fast water and at landings.

Subarctic Indians were among the first North Americans to meet Europeans. Beothuks probably came into contact with the Vikings and certainly saw John Cabot. He observed the Beothuks' custom of painting their bodies with red ochre, and many in the Old World assumed from his description of this practice that Indians were red.

**Trade in energy products**

A massive growth in Canadian trade in energy products took place from 1973 to 1974. Exports nearly doubled in value, rising from \$2.6 billion to \$5.1 billion, imports rose 2.5 times, from \$1.3 to \$3.3 billion, and the trade surplus widened substantially from \$1.3 billion to \$1.9 billion.

Canada's surplus with the United States kept increasing and doubled to \$4.3 billion but this was offset by a deficit of \$2.4 billion with other countries. Crude petroleum in 1974 accounted for 73 per cent of exports of energy products to the U.S. and 92 per cent of these imports from overseas countries.

Exports to the U.S. reached a record of \$4,704 million in 1974, up 96 per cent from \$2,396 million in 1973. Besides crude petroleum, which was responsible for 82 per cent of the increase, deliveries of natural gas, liquified petroleum gas, fuel oils and electricity were higher. There were small declines in exports of radioactive ores and gasoline.

**Exports**

Higher prices accounted entirely for the sharp rise in the value of exports of energy commodities. Quantitatively, exports were lower by 15 per cent in 1974, the British Thermal Unit (BTU) equivalent of 3,631 trillion comparing with 4,300 trillion for 1973. All com-