

News briefs

In municipal elections across Ontario on November 8, there was overwhelming support on a referendum vote for nuclear disarmament. Large centres like Ottawa and Toronto received 77 and 79 per cent support respectively. In all 80 of Ontario's 800 municipalities voted on the issue and almost 80 per cent are expected to favour disarmament. A total of 139 Canadian municipalities are holding similar referendums before 1983.

A Statistics Canada report shows that the gross domestic product rose to a seasonally adjusted \$112.37 billion in August, up 6 per cent from \$111.75 billion in July. The output of goods-producing industries was up 1.1 per cent since July, while the output of service-producing industries was up 3 per cent. The increase was mainly attributable to higher output by the manufacturing and finance, insurance and real estate industries.

Health Minister Monique Bégin announced recently that a new Canada Health Act will be introduced in Parliament next spring. One of the central issues will be medicare, and the provisions will attempt to keep medicare cost-efficient; prohibit extra billing by doctors and ensure that user fees do not bar access to medical care; and make it difficult for doctors to opt out of medicare.

Canada is granting \$150 000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for its program of assistance for political detainees. The funds will be provided through the International Humanitarian Assistance (IHA) program of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Financial assistance is being given to a number of gas utilities across the country under the Distribution System Expansion Program to help finance expansion of their natural gas distribution systems to new market areas. Gaz Métropolitain Incorporated and Gaz Provincial du Nord de Québec Ltée, both of Quebec, will receive up to \$1 138 196 for four projects; Consumers' Gas Company, Northern and Central Gas Corporation, Union Gas Limited, Natural Resource Gas and the City of Kitchener of Ontario will receive up to \$2 784 321 for 36 projects in the province; and British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, Pacific Northern Gas, Inland Natural Gas and ICG (British Columbia) Limited will receive up to \$1.78 million for 16 gas expansion projects in British Columbia.



Greg Teckles, The Citizen

Colourful entertainer in Ottawa performs on the Sparks Street mall to help raise funds for the United Way, an annual campaign to help the needy.

"Quebec the fortified city: from the 17th to the 19th century", a major publication on the history of Quebec City fortifications, went on sale recently in Quebec City. The 491-page book was prepared by three Parks Canada historians: André Charbonneau, Yvon Desloges and Marc Lafrance. It was the culmination of several years of research and investigation into a number of hitherto little-known aspects of the history of Quebec City, its fortifications and its inhabitants. It is available in English or French in several Quebec bookstores at a cost of \$45.

Economic Development Minister Donald Johnston has started a round of national consultations on economic and regional development issues to obtain the views of provincial governments and various representatives of business and labour. He has already met with Ontario Treasurer Frank Miller and several key business representatives in Toronto and Premier Brian Peckford in St. John's, Newfoundland. In the weeks ahead, Mr. Johnston plans to hold meetings in every province.

The Canadian Bureau for International Education's reception service met over 6 000 foreign students this year, 50 per cent more than in 1981, at Halifax, Toronto and Vancouver airports. An extra week of service in Vancouver and longer hours of operation in Toronto partly account for the increase. The pilot service at Halifax airport will be con-

tinued next year. Nearly half of the students were headed for secondary schools.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed two lines of credit of \$10 million (US) each with banks in Brazil, which are designed to assist Canadian exporters competing for sales in that country by providing the buyers with a simple and easily-accessible credit facility through their banks. One line of credit was signed with Banco Desenvolvimento do Estado de São Paulo S.A.-BADESP and the other with Banco do Estado do Rio de Janeiro S.A.-BANERJ. It is expected that the main beneficiaries of the lines of credit will be small- and medium-sized Canadian manufacturing companies. Contracts for sales will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Northern Telecom Limited of Toronto has signed a four-year agreement to supply and install their DMS-100 digital switching systems throughout the New York Telephone Company's service area. Total sales under the agreement are expected to exceed \$150 million (US). Two switching systems included in the contract are currently being installed in Brooklyn and Chappaqua, New York and initial installations of the remaining switches are in the New York metropolitan area.

Nineteen Ontario firms displayed their latest mining equipment products at the 1982 International Mining Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 11-14. The Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade organized and led the Ontario group. The show, which is held every four years, enables international exhibitors to display the newest equipment in exploration, mining development and operations, processing techniques and methods of mineral and metal recovery.

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