
Small rise in fuel costs

Gasoline and home heating oil prices in 1983 are expected to increase by an average of only 2 cents a litre compared with previous projections of 6 cents a litre because of sharply reduced requirements for imported oil.

Although producers will have the benefit of a \$4 a barrel increase in the wellhead oil price January 1, 1983, as part of the Canada-Alberta oil pricing agreement, consumers will face only moderate price increases under the framework of federal government pricing policies.

Lower import requirements will mean reductions in the federally-administered Petroleum Compensation Charge (PCC), which is levied to cover import costs.

"We expect that the combination of wellhead price increases next January 1 and July 1, and the PCC reduction will, in total, cause oil product prices to increase by only about 2 cents *per* litre over current levels," said Energy Minister Jean Chrétien.

Gasoline prices should increase from a national average of about 45 cents a litre to 47 cents a litre. Home heating oil would increase from 32 cents a litre to 34 cents a litre. Without the PCC reduction, the increases would have averaged about 9 per cent rather than 5 per cent.

Mr. Chrétien said that the lower increases were within the federal 6 and 5 per cent guidelines, which was good news for both consumers and the economy in general.

Hope for world cup soccer in Canada

Canada may beat its competitors in a bid to host World Cup soccer championships in 1986, says Georges Schwartz, vice-president of the Canadian Soccer Association.

Mr. Schwartz told *Canada Tourism* that although Brazil was favoured to be chosen by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), there was also speculation that the Brazilian government might withhold support for economic reasons. That would narrow the choice to Canada and the United States.

Mr. Schwartz explained that because international politics were important in deciding the World Cup site, Canada's "neutral stance in world affairs may help win the bid".

He said FIFA had also been prompted

to choose a North American site to boost the game's popularity on this continent. He stressed that a decision favouring Brazil would "no doubt be made" if that country remained in the running. A final decision will come next spring. The event was originally slated for Colombia in 1986, but that country withdrew its commitment on October 25.

If held in Canada, costs would be kept to a minimum by using existing facilities in nine Canadian cities. The 52-game competition would net revenues of about \$55 million which are split up among participating countries and FIFA. Canada's share would more than cover total costs which are estimated at \$15 million, according to Mr. Schwartz.

World-wide audience

The 29-day event, held every four years, attracts thousands of soccer fans and a world-wide television audience. Some two billion television viewers watched the final match in Spain last July, with nearly 40 billion viewers throughout the competition.

"We'd definitely be attracting a lot of European visitors because out of the 24 qualifying countries this year, 14 were from Europe — and soccer is their number one sport," Mr. Schwartz pointed out.

Canada's team won the North American title for the first time this year, but failed to qualify for the finals by only one point.

Elderly myth decried

Margery Boyce, a Department of Veterans Affairs gerontologist, says it is a myth that the elderly are all sick, institutionalized or unproductive. Recently she spoke at the Alberta Symposium on Aging to help dispel that myth and her message to conference participants was that organizations should harness the energy of



Margery Boyce

older people and give them a chance to show what they can do.

In responding to a paper on advocacy and self-determination by Alberta University's Dr. Davy, Ms Boyce recalled her experiences in Ottawa where she was part of a movement to involve older persons in planning and monitoring services to meet their own needs.

"The Ottawa Council on Aging, made up largely of retired people, has been able to plug representatives into other influential organizations such as the Continuing Care Board of the District Health Council and the Social Planning Council. It has also broken new ground with inter-generational programs such as WISE (Wider Intergenerational Special Enrichment) where older persons act as resources to local high schools, sharing their life-long experiences as they relate to the courses being studied. When students see and hear these dynamic resource people, they respond with enthusiasm and a negative stereotype is broken down a little more."

She pointed out that at any given time, about 85 per cent of the older population were in good health and ready to keep active, while the remaining 15 per cent were disabled, sick or just too frail. "Yet it is the 15 per cent that we seem to hear about the most, because they fit the stereotype our society has constructed for the older person."

Ms Boyce quoted American sociologist Carol Estes on society's attitude towards aging: "The dominant view of the aged (which is shared by many elderly people themselves), is that they are unproductive and dependent persons whose lives are steadily deteriorating."

She said the best advocates older people can have are the so-called "well old", the active retired people who can influence the power structure so it reacts more kindly to aging. "The well-old as advocates, as honest brokers, can be very effective in improving the situation of their less fortunate peers."

The type of advocacy she recommends is of an encouraging nature rather than confrontation, and should be applied in an organized "strength in numbers" way. She quoted a symposium document which said: "By nature, most older persons are not aggressively inclined nor are they as a group well-organized. At present, some are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, fraud and injury. To secure their influence it may be necessary for older people to be heard as a more unified group."