
Cost of living highest in Montreal, lowest in Winnipeg

Montreal has edged out Vancouver for the dubious distinction of being the most expensive major city for an upper-middle-class family to live in.

"It now costs about 1 per cent less to live in Vancouver than in Montreal," says Lynne Threlfall, a Conference Board of Canada researcher. "In 1981 it cost a family of four 17 per cent more to live in Vancouver than in Montreal."

Much of the reason for the change is the decline in housing costs as a portion of the budget of a middle-class family and

a comparative increase in the impact of income taxes, she says in *The Canadian Business Review*.

A comparison of six cities shows that for a family of four with one salary of \$45 000 a year, total family expenses range from \$43 655 in Montreal to \$41 643 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Living costs in the other cities were: Toronto, Ontario \$43 648; Vancouver, British Columbia \$43 266; St. John's, Newfoundland \$43 014 and Calgary, Alberta \$42 065.

Co-operative team will study labour market conditions

Leaders of business and labour have signed a memorandum of understanding with the federal government to establish an Industrial Labour Market Institute that will study and advise on labour market conditions and policies for the skilled trades.

"I think this is an unprecedented breakthrough in industry, labour and government co-operation," said Employment and Immigration Minister John Roberts. "It reflects the important role which joint government-labour-industry initiatives can play in developing the instruments which will become increasingly valuable in preparing human resources for the anti-

ciated labour market adjustment." Mr. Roberts signed the memorandum with Shirley Carr, executive vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress and Thomas d'Aquino, president of the Business Council on National Issues.

One of the primary functions of the institute will be to develop assessments of the supply and demand of human resources in the skilled trades.

Based on these assessments, the institute will recommend policies which governments, business and labour may adopt to ensure that adequate supplies of skilled workers are available to support industrial recovery.



Signing memorandum of understanding to establish new Industrial Labour Market Institute are (from left to right): Thomas d'Aquino, president, Business Council of National Issues; Rod Bilodeau, vice-president, Honeywell Ltd; John Roberts, Minister of Employment and Immigration and Shirley Carr, executive vice-president, Canadian Labour Congress.

Wineries seek world recognition

Although Canada has been producing wine for about a century, the industry has blossomed in the past 12 years with some 21 000 people now employed in its manufacture, compared to 1 800 in 1971.

More Canadians are drinking wine than ever before. This, in part, is due to the marketing practices of the wine industry but also to the changing tastes of consumers. Canadian wineries have met these changes and helped cultivate a more sophisticated taste for the white and red table wines.

Ontario and British Columbia are the two largest wine-producing provinces. (Wineries in most other provinces use grapes from Ontario and British Columbia.)

Special conditions

The special climatic and soil conditions of Ontario's Niagara Peninsula help produce good wine varieties. The secret is the "micro-climate", a small region sheltered from extreme climatic conditions, where grapes thrive. Here, within an otherwise severe climate, a unique pocket of land provides perfect conditions for grape growing. The Niagara Peninsula enjoys the moderating influence of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario and is afforded wind protection by the Niagara Escarpment. The result is some 9 700 hectares of prime vineyards.

The climate, of course, is the great variable, making or breaking the vintage. An excellent season can be destroyed by heavy rains during the September harvest.

Okanagan Valley

In British Columbia, vineyards are located in the south and central regions of the Okanagan Valley. The latitudes of the Okanagan Valley are the same as in northern France and parts of Germany where the "grape Château" wines are produced.

The Okanagan Valley has a variety of micro-climates, making possible different types of grapes and wine. Grapes grow from the Kelowna area in the north all the way along the Okanagan Lake to Penticton, and in the southern extremity of the valley, around Oliver and Osoyoos. In the northern section, grapes are grown in light mountain soil; in the south, they are grown in shale and sand. These different types of soil allow different types of grapes to be grown, enabling the