

## News briefs

The Department of External Affairs has appointed James J. McCardle to serve as Canada's Special Negotiator (Nuclear Safeguards). Mr. McCardle will negotiate non-proliferation/safeguards agreements with governments of those countries with which the Canadian government wishes to enter into nuclear co-operation. Mr. McCardle's first task in this regard will be to negotiate a long-term arrangement with Euratom covering the reprocessing of nuclear material subject to the Canada/Euratom nuclear co-operation agreement.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council has awarded 200 new strategic grants totalling \$8.3 million. Strategic grants support university research aimed at contributing to the understanding or solution of problems in the fields of communications, energy, environmental toxicology, food/agriculture and oceans. In addition to these designated areas, a limited number of applications were accepted in other areas considered to be of national concern by Canadian universities.

Alberta's Heritage Savings Trust Fund grew to \$7.4 billion by September 30, the fund's second-quarter report for 1980-81 shows. This was nearly \$1 billion more than total assets on March 31, 1980. Money from the fund went into loans to other provinces and investments in capital projects and Crown corporations within Alberta.

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has announced that projects involving 183 senior citizens groups across Canada will receive federal contributions totalling \$1,136,088. A total of 28,897 participants are directly involved. The funds are made available through the department's New Horizons program.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has approved an additional 800

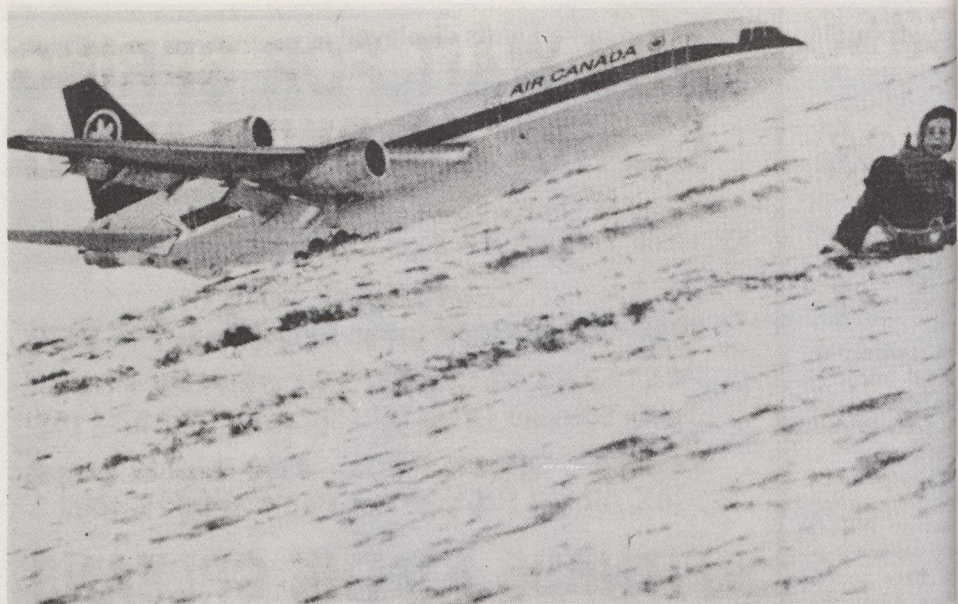
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*What might seem to be a jet climbing a toboggan hill to join the youngster on his way down was just a momentary illusion; the plane was coming in to land behind the hill.*

housing units for the greater Vancouver area to help meet a critical housing shortage. A recent survey of vacancy rates in rental units in major Canadian cities showed that Vancouver, at .4 per cent, had one of the lowest rates in the country.

Four new regional passport offices will be opened in Fredericton, London, Windsor and Victoria. The extension of personalized passport service to the four cities brings to 16 the number of regional passport offices across the country. It is estimated that the four new offices will provide over-the-counter service to approximately 22,000 Canadian travellers during the first year of operation.

Increases in the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and Spouse's Allowance, come into effect in January. The basic Old Age Security pension was increased to \$202.14 monthly from the former \$196.83. The maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement for an individual or a married person whose spouse is receiving neither a pension nor a Spouse's Allowance, was increased to \$202.94 from its former \$197.60. Added to the basic pension, this will give a person receiving both the OAS and the maximum GIS a monthly total of \$405.08.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced the conclusion of a \$6.1 million (U.S.) financing agreement to support the sale of a DHC-5D Buffalo aircraft and spare parts by the de Havilland Aircraft of Canada, Limited, Downsview, Ontario, to Fisco-Fuerza Aerea de Chile

(The Chilean air force). The sale will generate some 209 man-years of employment in Canada.

Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development John Munro has officially named Doug Bell, Commissioner of the Yukon Territory. He has been the Administrator and Acting Commissioner since the resignation of Ione Christensen, October 9, 1979. As Commissioner, he will be the Minister's senior adviser on Yukon affairs and continue to act as the representative of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Secretary of State Francis Fox has announced payments of \$162,500 to the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and \$20,000 to the Association for Canadian Studies. The funds represent the first instalment of the final year of a three-year pilot project announced in 1978 to promote Canadian studies. This pilot project also has provided support to the activities of the Canada Studies Foundation.

The federal government has decided to offer roughly \$50 million in export subsidies to help Canadian companies bid on contracts abroad. Ed Lumley, Minister of State for Trade says that the federal government will offer the funds to Canadian firms bidding on foreign capital projects to reduce financing terms. The government money would be used in combination with conventional export financing to produce low interest rates, an export financing device known as "credit mixte".