

Population increase leads to expanded Parliament

With the latest census figures showing that Canada's population grew by 12.9 per cent over the past decade, 28 additional members of Parliament will be elected to the House of Commons in a future federal election.

The expansion of the Commons is automatic following each decennial census for each of the provinces, there will be six new members for Alberta, five for British Columbia, ten for Ontario, four for Quebec and one for each of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Manitoba.

In announcing the census results, Supply and Services Minister Jean Jacques Blais said redistribution and expansion of the Commons could not be completed in time for the next election, which will probably take place no later than the fall of 1984. It is expected that the new members of Parliament will not be elected to the Commons before 1988.

Redistribution complicated

The determination of the specific areas which the new areas will represent is based on a complex formula grounded in decades of political compromise and partly included in both the British North America Act and the new Constitution.

The key element for the expansion is that Quebec receives four more members, whether its population rises, falls or remains the same. Representation for the other large provinces is adjusted according to their relative populations.

The redrawing of electoral boundaries is, however, a more complicated procedure; it involves public hearings and is done by the government's Chief Electoral Officer. Commissions to study boundary

adjustments are to be set up within two months.

The most populous areas of the country — Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia — will continue to be relatively under-represented.

The final census population figures showed that 82.3 per cent of the 24 343 181 people enumerated on June 3, 1981 live in these four provinces, but they will get only 78.7 per cent of the seats in the new 310-member Commons.

Prince Edward Island, with four members to serve a population of 118 229, will be the most over-represented province. In effect, the vote of one Prince Edward Islander will be worth more than two-and-a-half votes of other Canadians.

Large growth in west and north

The census indicated that the population of Alberta, the Northwest Territories, British Columbia and the Yukon have grown the most dramatically. Alberta's population expanded at about three times the national average, the population of the Northwest Territories rose by 31 per cent and that of British Columbia and the Yukon increased by 26 per cent.

Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Ottawa-Hull continue to rank as Canada's four largest metropolitan areas (in that order), but Edmonton and Calgary are growing rapidly. With 657 057 people, Edmonton is nearing Ottawa-Hull, with 717 978 people. And Calgary, with 592 743 people has moved up from ninth to sixth in city size.

Toronto with 2 998 947 people, continues as the country's largest population centre.

Wetlands projects for Saskatchewan

Ducks Unlimited is to spend \$10 million in the next five years to develop five major Saskatchewan wetlands — to be known as heritage marshes.

The conservation group has entered into the five-year agreement along with the province and three other conservation groups.

Saskatchewan Tourism Minister Reg Gross said Panass Lake, about 200 kilometres northeast of Regina, had been designated the first heritage marsh.

The project covers about 2 800 hectares that is to be managed as nesting cover for ducks and for hay crops.

The Thunder Creek marshes northwest of Moose Jaw, named the second heritage marsh, cover about 3 200 hectares.

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation has promised to buy 1 200 hectares of land in the initial phase of the agreement and the province is to contribute 4 000 hectares of Crown land.

The heritage marshes, believed to be the first of their kind in North America, will provide a guaranteed source of water for livestock, irrigation and waterfowl.

About 20 million mallards are produced in Saskatchewan each year — about 40 per cent of the North American flock.

Salty carvings win accolades

Jan Lapinski, a Canadian chef from London, Ontario has won first prize in the one-hundred-and-thirteenth annual Salon of Culinary Arts held in conjunction with the international hotel-motel-restaurant show in New York.

Lapinski received the prize in the artistic and practical decor category for his Canadian fauna collection of five salt sculptures depicting the beaver, Canada goose, bear, turtle and seal in natural poses. Each sculpture was carved in a single 18-hour sitting from a solid, 22-kilogram block of salt.

Lapinski said he became interested in art during his culinary training in Italy and was also influenced by Canadian Inuit carvings.

Although he has made sculptures of materials such as tallow, ice and butter, he said he prefers salt, it does not need refrigeration and can be used more than once.

Constitution stamp commemorates an historic occasion

The Canada Post Corporation has issued a special stamp to honour the patriation of Canada's Constitution.

The new stamp shows an open book, with illustrations that symbolize the history and tradition of Canada. The left-hand page depicts the Canadian coat of arms, a reminder of the past

from which the country has grown. A stylized Canadian flag, displayed as a bookmark; brings to mind a more recent historical milestone. And the right-hand page, with the words "Constitution 1982", evokes the importance of a new step for Canada and the hope it brings for the future.

