

Canada Weekly

Ottawa
Canada

Volume 12, No. 7
February 15, 1984

- National productivity centre unites business and labour, 1
- EDC aids Asia and Pacific region, 2
- First futures exchange since 1898 opens in Toronto, 2
- New Speaker named, 2
- Air Canada launches new cargo service to Brussels, 3
- Latest sports equipment featured at ISPO 84 in Munich, 3
- PM announces June Summit meeting, 3
- First think-tank on disarmament, 3
- "Fathers of Telidon" establish new company, 4
- Romanian nuclear project, 4
- Task force to probe water issues, 4
- Electronics research boosted, 5
- Telecom wins giant US order, 5
- Illuminating pipe lights up the darkness, 5
- Caribou herds roam close to home, 6
- Top wrestler dies, 6
- Enerstat slashes fuel costs, 6
- World YWCA names first Canadian president, 6
- News of the arts — film star, cartoonist, 7
- News briefs, 8
- Wind-chill surfer, 8

National productivity centre unites business and labour

The federal government will spend \$27 million over the next four years to establish the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre, designed to bring business and labour together for the first time in almost a decade to study pressing economic problems.

The centre will be the first forum in which management and trade unionists can tackle long-term problems together. It will examine how to improve productivity in the public and private sectors and assess labour market requirements and employment growth in Canada.

The idea is to have business and labour consult in order to create jobs, foresee technological change, and devise schemes to mitigate its effects.

The proposed centre will examine the critical issues of productivity improvement, labour market requirements and employment growth in Canada. It will be divided into two branches: the Productivity and Employment Growth Branch,

which is to involve labour and business in examining productivity in both the public and private sectors; and the Labour Market Branch which will examine the supply and demand for key skills and make recommendations to address these issues.

The establishment of such a centre is in response to an initiative proposed by Finance Minister Marc Lalonde in his budget speech last April. In it, Mr. Lalonde identified productivity and competitiveness as critical issues for Canada. "For recovery to be sustained in Canada, and for real growth of our incomes and our living standards to resume," he noted, "we must raise our sights beyond the period immediately ahead of us. A broad national effort is required over the remaining years of the decade to make sure that Canada remains one of the most productive, competitive and prosperous economies in the industrialized world. Our major trading partners will continue



Announcing the creation of a new Labour Market and Productivity Centre are (from left to right) Finance Minister Marc Lalonde, Labour Minister André Ouellet, Thomas d'Aquino, president of the Business Council on National Issues and Shirley Carr, executive vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress.

Canapress