

News briefs

Brian Peckford, Newfoundland's former Mines and Energy Minister, became the province's new Premier recently, after winning the Conservative Party leadership March 17. He succeeds Frank Moores, who in January announced his intention to retire.

An agreement for staging the 1981 Canada Summer Games was signed recently in Thunder Bay, Ontario by representatives of the federal, provincial and municipal governments and the chairman of the host society. Construction of the new Thunder Bay Canada Games sports complex is scheduled to begin this spring.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada has awarded 165 grants for a total of \$4.8 million in support of university research in three areas of national concern: energy, environmental toxicology and oceans.

Federal Communications Minister Jeanne Sauvé has written to the Chairman of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, Dr. Pierre Camu, suggesting creation of a task force to develop criteria governing the portrayal of women on radio and television. Although "it is not up to the Government to decide what is permissible in broadcasts and advertisements", the minister wrote, she did say the image of women portrayed by the media was an important target of a national plan aimed at the promotion of the status of women in society and elimination of discrimination they have traditionally faced.

The Export Development Corporation has arranged an \$8.5-million (U.S.) loan to help finance the sale by Westinghouse Canada Limited of Hamilton of electric power equipment to Colombia.

Interprovincial Pipeline of Toronto and Edmonton has announced a \$14-million (U.S.) expansion of oil pipeline

to permit increased deliveries to refineries in eastern Canada and parts of the U.S. The expansion will affect a 480-km section of pipeline between Chicago and Sarnia, Ontario.

The Law Reform Commission of Canada has proposed that the definition of "cheques" be changed to include cheques issued not only by banks but by trust companies, credit unions and other institutions accepting deposits. Under a bill to amend the *Bank Act*, the word bank would be redefined to include such institutions.

The Canadian Government Office of Tourism has been awarded a "U-STAR Tourism Recognition Award" by the United States Tour Operator's Association (USTOA) "for excelling in the promotion of tourism with professionalism and integrity". The award, the first by the USTOA to a national tourism organization, was made during the association's recent annual conference and marketplace in New York. Last year the 25 USTOA active member organizations served more than 1.2 million people on tours, earning approximately \$1.8 billion.

The popular conception that the size of Canada's public service is growing much faster than the total labour force is rejected as a myth in a report released recently by the Institute for Research on Public Policy. The 188-page study, entitled *Public Employment and Compensation in Canada: Myths and Realities*, also casts suspicion on the belief that wages paid by government are higher than those of private business for comparable work.

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for February fell to 7.9 per cent from 8.1 per cent in January, Statistics Canada reports.

De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Ltd. has received a \$2.8-million contract, awarded by the Canadian International Development Agency, to supply Nepal with three Twin-Otter aircraft.

Hawker Siddeley Canada Ltd. will build 500 steel hopper cars worth \$21 million for North American Leasing Co. of New York.

The Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board has authorized the production of an additional 60,000 barrels a day of crude oil, bringing output to 1.2 million barrels a day. The increased output is to help avoid a potential emergency situation in feedstock supplies at some U.S. and eastern Canada refineries.

The Ontario government has reopened mineral exploration on more than 3.75 million acres of land in the James Bay lowlands area, about 120 kilometres north of Timmins. The area contains large deposits of lignite coal, a peat-like mineral, as well as various industrial minerals, including silica sands and industrial clays.

A three-volume set of the reports of the Task Force on Canadian Unity, called *A Time to Speak*, was released for sale in late March by the Canadian Government Publishing Centre. The reports, summarizing the views expressed by Canadians during the task force hearings held across the country between September 1977 and April of last year, include opinions contained in 3,000 letters sent to the task force, headed by Jean-Luc Pepin and John Robarts.

Esso Resources Limited of Calgary plans to spend about \$30 million on each of two planned exploratory wells this summer off Canada's east coast, according to J.G. Livingstone, executive vice-president and director of Imperial Oil Limited of Toronto.

A strategy to develop a stronger automotive industry by encouraging new research and development has been announced by Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Jack Horner, on behalf of the Board of Economic Development Ministers. Recommendations include: that the industry be reviewed on an annual basis and a report produced; that auto parts makers be given access to government funds through the Federal Enterprise Development Program, and that the Government study a proposal to give designated importers duty free entry of vehicles in return for placing work in Canada.

International Thomson Organization Limited of Toronto has made an offer of \$31 a share for 51 percent interest of Hudson's Bay Company of Winnipeg. The bid is valued at \$365.8 million.

Dr. Jacques Genest, the scientific director of the Clinical Research Institute of Montreal, received the title of Master from the American College of Physicians of Philadelphia at its annual session in San Francisco on March 26. The title of Master, never before bestowed upon a Quebec doctor, is in recognition of a signal contribution in academic attainment, medical research and achievement as a clinician.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.