

**Canada hosts international ice hockey tournament**

Federal Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde announced on January 8 that an international ice hockey tournament, organized by Canada, would be held in the autumn. All countries invited to participate – Czechoslovakia, Finland, the Soviet Union, Sweden and the United States had accepted. Cash prizes totalling \$465,000 will be presented. Excerpts from Mr. Lalonde's statement follow:

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Formal negotiations began in November 1975. The organizing committee met for two days in Stockholm with representatives of all invited countries. Representatives of the International Ice Hockey Federation were also in attendance. At that meeting, all countries agreed in principle to participate in the tournament and substantial agreement was reached on the details of the Canadian proposal.

It was proposed that the tournament be a "single round robin" to be held in the fall of 1976 with the two top teams participating in a two out of three games play-off.

Cash prizes would be awarded by order of finish according to the following scale:

1st place	\$100,000
2nd place	75,000
3rd place	65,000
4th place	55,000
5th place	50,000
6th place	45,000

In addition, the winning team and the losing team of the final three-game

series would receive \$50,000 and \$25,000 respectively.

In the interest of fostering broad participation in deciding technical hockey matters related to the tournament, Canada proposed the creation of a tournament directorate composed of representatives of all invited countries plus the International Ice Hockey Federation. These participants agreed to the proposal and the first meeting was held here in Toronto, yesterday, January 7.

I am pleased to announce that as a result of that meeting, all countries have now officially agreed to participate in Canada's invitational hockey tournament to be held in September 1976.

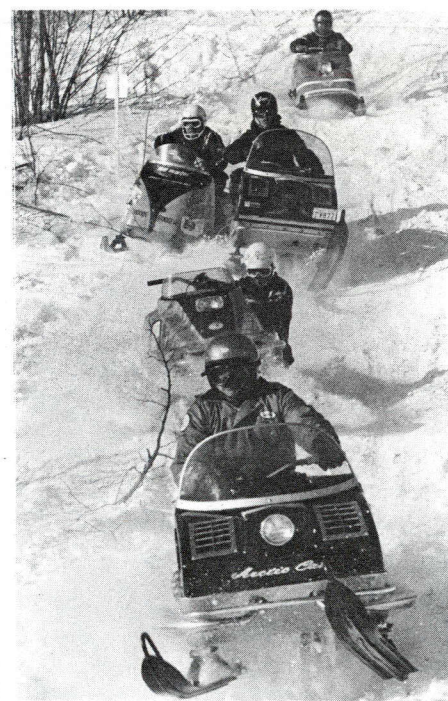
With respect to Canada's participation in the tournament, I am pleased to announce further that the organizing committee has been assured of the full co-operation of the players' associations and the owners of the National Hockey League and the World Hockey Association teams.

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ganing, sleigh rides, curling and ice fishing as well as enjoying the many carnivals that take place.

**Snowmobiling**

Snowmobiling, invented in Quebec, is growing quickly in popularity. Hundreds of snowmobile clubs have been established, and whole families take part in the sport. The number of trails has multiplied to such an extent that regulations have had to be laid down to prevent accidents and protect the environment.



**Winter sports and recreation in Quebec**

In winter as in summer, Canadians, like people in the other industrialized nations, feel a growing need to spend much of their free time far from the big cities.

When there is a nip in the air, when the biting north wind blows and powdery snow falls over the province of Quebec, the sports-minded rejoice, and the winter resorts near the slopes and trails welcome the crowds of snow-worshippers.

Quebecers, used to cold temperatures, have transformed the long Canadian winter into a time of enjoyment and activity in the outdoors. They like the cold, snowy weather because it enables them to take part in a wide variety of sports and recreation – skiing, ice hockey, skating, snowshoeing, tobog-



**Skiing**

Quebec, truly a skier's paradise, has 115 winter resorts, 866 slopes to suit all tastes and skills, 487 cross-country ski trails, and 354 mechanical lifts. There are also 66 lighted trails and, for the daring, 13 ski jumps. Twenty-seven centres can provide artificial snow when necessary.

Four main regions in Quebec stand out for excellent skiing because of their size and proximity to the big cities: the Laurentians north of Montreal, the Eastern Townships to the southeast, the Gatineau Hills, close to Ottawa, and the area surrounding Quebec City, in particular Mont Ste-Anne, which in 1969, 1971 and 1973 drew the top European, United States and Canadian skiers to compete in the World Cup trials (see *Canada Weekly*, No. 11, March 1975).