

# International hockey games promise exciting season



Photos: Government of Quebec

*A spectacular save by goalie Ken Dryden, during the championship in Moscow in 1972.*

The two-game series between the National Team of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the National Hockey League's (NHL) All-Stars, to be televised in North America and the USSR, will revive vivid memories for many Canadians of the first exhilarating series with the Soviet Union in 1972. After a poor start in the first four games in Canada, (1 win, 2 losses and 1 tie) and losing the first game in Moscow, Team Canada roared back to win the next three games and the series 4-3-1.

Canada has competed in international hockey matches since the first recognized world hockey competition took place at the 1920 Winter Olympic Games in Antwerp. Club teams represented Canada until the mid-1960s, when the great improvement in the calibre of hockey in other countries spurred Canada to send national "all-star" teams into international competition.

Since 1976 Canada has vied with the USSR and strong hockey teams from other countries for the coveted Canada Cup, the trophy perceived

by international ice hockey leaders as the premier world championship. Canada has won two of the three series, in 1976, and in 1984. The USSR won in 1981.

The winners of the upcoming two-game series in Quebec City, matches that are sanctioned by the International Ice Hockey Federation, the NHL and the NHL Players Association, will receive the Rendez-Vous 87 Cup.

The Soviet Ice Hockey Federation has agreed to send its best players. The men making up the NHL team will be selected in two stages. First, a competition throughout North America will decide the six players of the starting formation, then the general manager, in consultation with his coaches, will pick the rest of the team.

This series will be a significant event steeped in hockey history because it represents three countries of different origins and cultures but all sharing a keen interest in this sport.

## BADABOUM



Photo: Rendez-Vous 87