

News briefs

Canada's Finance Minister Allan MacEachen has been elected chairman of the International Monetary Fund's Interim Committee. Mr. MacEachen was named to the post during a recent meeting of the committee in Libreville, Gabon. It was the first meeting in Africa by the committee, which is the policy-making body of the IMF.

Loans totalling \$49,180,381 were made under the Farm Improvement Loans Act during the period January 1, 1981 to March 31, 1981. This is up from loans amounting to \$42,340,521 made in the same period in 1980. Under this legislation, the government may guarantee loans by chartered banks and other designated lenders to farmers for a wide range of purposes. The maximum that a borrower may have outstanding is \$100,000.

A Micmac-Malecite educational development institute is being established at the University of New Brunswick with a \$150,000 grant from the Donner Canadian Foundation. The purpose of the institute is to familiarize Micmac and Malecite teachers and other educators with instructional and curriculum development resources and processes with particular reference to the needs of native Indian children in the school system; and to train and educate teachers and others to assume leadership roles in curriculum development in the future.

Ten grants totalling \$124,907 have been awarded under the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation external research program. The grants are intended to stimulate research into the social, economic, physical, environmental, legislative and administrative aspects of housing. They are offered twice yearly in March and September and can be up to \$20,000. Smaller grants of up to \$2,500 are available on a quarterly basis.

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

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.

The western province promising the best rate of growth this year is Saskatchewan with a real gain of 5.6 per cent, followed in 1982 by a further rise of 4.4 per cent, Thomas Maxwell, chief economist for the Conference Board of Canada said at the board's Western Business Outlook session in Vancouver. Over-all Alberta growth will slip to 4 per cent in real terms this year, while the British Columbia economy will continue to grow by about 3.5 per cent in 1981 and 1982. Manitoba is forecast to have the lowest economic growth of the western provinces, with growth of 2 per cent this year and 2.3 per cent in 1982.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) recently signed a \$10-million (U.S.) line of credit with Copenhagen Handelsbank A/S of Copenhagen, Denmark. The line-of-credit will provide financing support for the sale of various Canadian goods and services to Danish purchasers.

The latest issue of *Canadian Theses/Thèses canadiennes*, an on-going bibliography of masters and doctoral theses accepted by Canadian universities, has been published by the National Library of Canada. *Canadian Theses/Thèses canadiennes* may be purchased from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Quebec, K1A 0S9.

The federal government has announced that Canadian Home Insulation Program (CHIP) will apply to eligible Newfoundland homes built before September 1, 1977. This is a change from the eligibility date of January 1, 1961, which applies in most parts of Canada. Exceptions are the Yukon and Northwest Territories, where the cut-off date has always been September 1, 1977; and Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, which have a separate insulation-grant program that applies to housing units built before January 1, 1977.

The Manitoba government has signed an agreement with the Aluminum Company of Canada (Alcan) for a feasibility study on a world-scale aluminum smelter in Manitoba. The government completed an early feasibility study in April 1978 which supported the concept of an aluminum production facility in Manitoba. Alcan became actively involved in July 1979 and the pre-feasibility study period since has now culminated in the undertaking of an in-depth study. The study could lead to a decision to build a \$500-million plus aluminum smelter in Mani-



While 4,135 National Capital marathoners were nursing blisters on their feet and cramped leg muscles, Ottawa Lou Mulvihill was checking the blisters on his hands. Mulvihill made it around the 42.195-kilometre course in Ottawa in a new three-wheeled wheelchair designed by local bicycle designer Fred Wilkie. Mulvihill, who was the only wheelchair participant, finished the race in a time of two hours and 55 minutes.

toba; it would be Alcan's first inland smelter.

The Canadian and American Societies of Plant Physiologists met recently at Laval University in Quebec City. It was the third joint meeting since 1973 and the first to be held in Quebec. The meeting was expected to draw 1,200 participants. The American Society of Plant Physiologists is the largest such organization in the world with close to 3,500 members. The Canadian counterpart has 300 members.

Jean Ratelle of the National Hockey League's Boston Bruins has announced his retirement from hockey after a 20-year career in the NHL. The 40-year-old centre was the NHL's sixth leading scorer with 1,267 points on 491 goals and 776 assists. Ratelle spent 13 of his 20 years with New York Rangers. He had only 276 career penalty minutes and never took a major penalty. Ratelle won the Lady Byng Trophy twice for gentlemanly play, once with the Rangers and once with the Bruins.