

Royal commission to guide Canada's economic future

Former Cabinet Minister Donald S. Macdonald will head a Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada, the Prime Minister announced on November 5.

The terms of reference for the commission, said Mr. Trudeau, were "perhaps the most important and far-reaching that have been assigned to any commission in our history".

While short-term action was necessary to counter the adverse effects of the recession and lay the groundwork for the return to prosperity, the Prime Minister went on, "we must look further ahead to see in what ways the country and its institutions might change to take full advantage of future opportunities for development".

"We now live in a much more competitive, technologically-sophisticated and interdependent world environment," the Prime Minister said. "It is time we stood back to look at all these changes and, in the light of what has happened, to look ahead at what the next generation of development can bring — if we do things right."

Mr. Trudeau emphasized the need for Canadian institutions to keep up with a rapidly changing environment.

"If we are to prosper," he said, "we must find ways to lessen the clamour of federal-provincial argument, and to reach consensus with far less pain. But if this is to be achieved, we must ensure that national policies are designed so that all parts of Canada can benefit from them, and that national institutions are truly reflective of regional needs."

Terms of reference

The royal commission is being asked to:

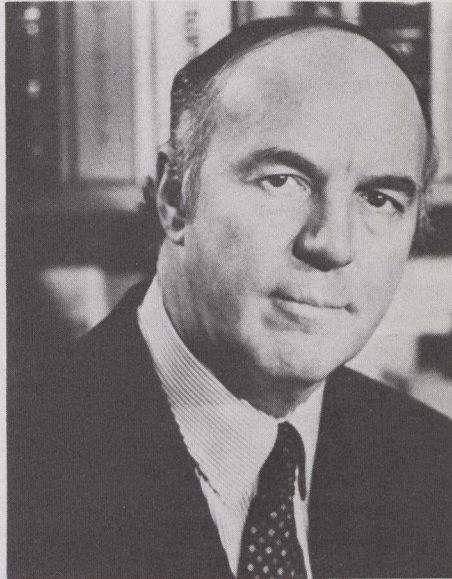
- assess Canada's economic potential over the longer-term;

- recommend national economic goals and national policies for the attainment of those goals;

- recommend ways in which the institutions of the national government — particularly those institutions which are vital to economic development — can better reflect the views of all Canadians and regions; and

- recommend institutional arrangements to handle more effectively relations between governments, business and labour, and the fiscal and economic aspects of federal-provincial relations.

The Prime Minister stressed the wide



Donald S. Macdonald

scope of the work assigned to the royal commission, the broadly representative and diverse nature of its membership, and the likelihood that its recommendations will contribute significantly to a brighter economic future for Canada. He expressed the hope that support for its establishment and co-operation with its work as it proceeds will come from the House of Commons, all government and legislative organizations in Canada and from Canadians everywhere.

Commission members

Donald Macdonald was first elected to the House of Commons in 1962 and was re-elected in the succeeding five general elections. He resigned from the House in 1978 and returned to private law practice.

As a member of Parliament, Mr. Macdonald served from 1963 to 1968 as Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministers of Justice, Finance and Industry and to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In April 1968, he was appointed a member of the Privy Council, and he became President of the Privy Council and Government House Leader. He was appointed Minister of National Defence in 1970 and Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in 1972.

In 1975, Mr. Macdonald became Minister of Finance. The introduction of the anti-inflation program, and the first two years of its administration, were a major concern for him in that portfolio. He presented two budgets to the House

of Commons and was responsible for the 1976 White Paper on Banking, which was the precursor to the 1980 revision of the Bank Act, and for the 1977 amendments to the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act, which were introduced after extensive federal-provincial negotiations.

At a news conference on November 25, Mr. Macdonald named nine other members of the commission:

William Hamilton, former Postmaster General in the Diefenbaker government from 1957-1962, now president of the Employers' Council of British Columbia, and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Albert Breton, professor of economics at the University of Toronto, who is the author of some 50 articles relating to public economic policies and their social and institutional dimensions.

Jean Casselman Wadds, returning to Canada following her term as Canadian High Commissioner to Britain. Jean Wadds brings to the commission experience as a member of Parliament, and as a diplomat.

Dr. Catherine Wallace, who joins the commission following her chairmanship of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, and whose mandate in the educational field is similar to the royal commission's in the economic area.

Daryl K. Seaman, chairman and president of Bow Valley Industries, a worldwide explorer and developer of energy resources.

Clarence Barber, professor of economics at the University of Manitoba, who was the author of "The Barber Report" following his term as commissioner of the Federal Royal Commission on Farm Machinery, 1966-1970.

Michel Robert, a lawyer specializing in constitutional law, who has represented the government of Canada at several recent commissions and inquiries, and before the Supreme Court of Canada and the Quebec Court of Appeal on questions relating to the patriation of the Constitution.

Angela Cantwell Peters, chairman and chief executive officer of Bowring Brothers national retail organization, a director of the Retail Council of Canada, and a member of the Prime Minister's Committee on Public Sector Compensation.

Gerard Docquier, national director for Canada of the United Steelworkers of America, who has been active in the labour movement since 1953, and is a vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress, the CLC's representative at the