

PREFACE

The 1986 World Exposition proved to be a joyous celebration, reaffirming Canada's ability to create an event of international stature. It attracted 22 111 578 visitors, and drew extraordinary attention to Canada's most westerly province. An unprecedented number of participants, more than 100 in all, responded to the invitation to take part.

EXPO 86 was truly everything that the people of British Columbia dreamed it would be. As Canadians, we wanted to show the world that we could honour a great heritage -- Montreal's Expo 67 -- and live up to our reputation as an international host.

EXPO 86 did just that, to become the biggest and most successful World Exposition of its type ever held.

Its visitors came from around the world, to enjoy the pavilions and exhibits of 54 international participants, seven provinces, two territories, three states and nine corporate exhibitors.

EXPO 86 fulfilled its theme of transportation and communications and opened the boundaries of world knowledge, highlighting the achievements of six continents with Specialized Periods, Theme Related Events and Symposia.

Millions of people delighted in more than 43 000 live performances, reflecting the culture and histories of the participating nations. The Royal Bank/EXPO 86 World Festival added its own magic with the Kirov Ballet, the Beijing People's Art Theatre, the Vancouver Symphony, France's Urban Sax, Japan's Toho Theatre and many other stunning presentations.

When all is said and done, it won't be bricks and mortar, dollars and cents that will be remembered about EXPO 86. It will undoubtedly be the experiences that were shared heart-to-heart and the unforgettable memories created by this remarkable event.

For all of those involved, from the staff of the Expo 86 Corporation to those of the international pavilions, from volunteers to visitors from around the world, EXPO 86 was a voyage of discovery of new talents, new enthusiasms and new friendships.