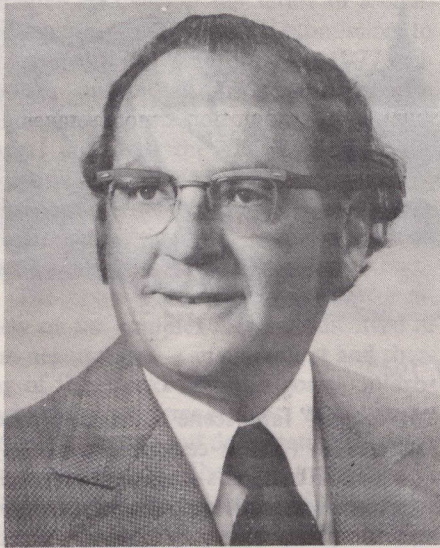


## Ottawa scientist named to international office

Dr. Neil J. Campbell, 51, a Canadian marine scientist, has been appointed first vice-chairman of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), an international scientific organization representing 94 countries. His appointment was by acclamation at the tenth IOC Assembly which concluded recently in Paris, France.



Thomas Studio

Dr. Neil J. Campbell

Dr. Campbell, a specialist in physical oceanography, is director-general of the Marine Sciences Information Directorate, Ocean and Aquatic Sciences, Fisheries and Marine Service, in Ottawa. He has headed the Canadian delegation to IOC for almost ten years.

In addition to his duties as first vice-chairman of IOC, Dr. Campbell has been given special responsibilities in assessing the future role and function of the Commission.

The IOC, an autonomous organization

within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has a mandate to promote scientific investigations with a view to learning more about the nature and resources of the oceans through the concerted action of its members. Its programs range from support of joint oceanographic scientific projects,

such as the Controlled Ecosystem Pollution Experiment (CEPEX) in British Columbia, to the Geochemical Ocean Sections Study (GEOSECS) and the International Tsunami Warning System, with which Canada is closely linked. IOC chairman is Dr. A. Ayala-Castanares, of Mexico.

## News briefs

**Pro-federalist groups** and political parties ended a three-day symposium in Quebec City on December 3 by forming a committee to fight the planned referendum on Quebec independence. The first meeting, which was to be held in Montreal on December 10, would have representatives from all parties with elected members in the House of Commons, four of five Quebec political parties and seven unity groups.

**Canada Pension Plan recipients** will receive a maximum of \$194.44 a month, an increase of 7.5 per cent, beginning in January. The Department of National Health and Welfare, which made the announcement, also stated that maximum disability pension in 1978 would rise to \$194.02 a month and orphans of deceased contributors would receive monthly cheques of \$48.19. Maximum monthly surviving-spouse pension will be \$121.11 for persons under 65 and \$116.66 for spouses 65 or older.

**Increases in the cost of food** and home ownership pushed up the cost of living by 1 per cent in October, reports Statistics Canada. The rise results in a 12-month inflation rate of 8.8 per cent.

**Three of 14 Montreal students** marooned for two days in snow on Jay Peak, Vermont, U.S., were rescued by U.S. Air Force helicopters on November 29. State police assisted the others down the rugged mountain. The students, aged from 17 to 19, who had been hiking, had been caught in snow drifts up to their waists.

**Canada's official monetary reserves** rose \$19.8 million (U.S.) last month, reflecting a letup in speculative pressure against the dollar. The November advance, following a decline in October, was the first increase since May, when reserves rose \$4.6 million.

**Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.** will receive a loan of \$13 million from the Federal Government to purchase uranium concentrate for lease to Argentina. The

uranium is one of the items included in AECL's sale of a Candu reactor to Argentina.

**The government of the Northwest Territories** will begin imposing its own personal and corporation income taxes after January 1, 1978. The territorial and federal governments will soon sign an agreement similar to those between Ottawa and most provincial governments, under which the Federal Government collects the provinces' personal and corporation taxes free of charge. A spokesman for the Northwest Territories government described the change as "symbolically, in any event, a further step towards political evolution".

**Japan is the largest single buyer** of Canada's agricultural exports and will likely remain its best market in the future. A recent study conducted by Agriculture Canada's trade policy section shows Canada supplied 92 per cent of Japan's rapeseed purchases in 1976 and predicts a strong demand for Canadian oilseeds on the Japanese market in the future. It also predicts the Japanese market should remain open for Canadian pork exports.

**Transport Minister Otto Lang** has announced a five-year, \$230-million program to assist provinces in improving their urban public transportation systems. No new funds are being made available; the program will allow provinces to take funds previously set aside for railway relocation and grade separations and use them for urban and commuter transportation.

**The Federal Government's decision** to arrange a \$1.5-billion standby credit that could be drawn on to support the Canadian dollar is being viewed favourably by bankers and foreign-exchange traders.

**It will cost 14 cents to mail a letter in Canada** beginning April 1. Postmaster-General Jean-Jacques Blais says rates for some other services will also be going up at that time. The increases are expected to produce an extra \$125 million a year in revenue.

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