

Advisory council on aging set up

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has announced the establishment of the National Advisory Council on Aging to assist and advise the Minister on matters related to the quality of life of the elderly.

Terms of reference for the 18-member council will include reviewing the needs and problems of older people, recommending remedial action; consulting with national, provincial and local associations involved in aging; publishing reports and stimulating public discussion on aging.

The council membership is composed of representatives of national or provincial organizations, social scientists, medical experts, members of senior citizen's clubs and the general public.

Dr. Sylvia McDonald of Montreal has been appointed chairperson of the Council which includes: Melvin Rowe, St. John's, Newfoundland; Charles S. Wall, Sydney, Nova Scotia; Henri Richard, Shediac, New Brunswick; Patrice Tardif, St. Méthode de Frontenac, Quebec; Berthe Fournier, Beauport, Quebec; Senator Thérèse Casgrain, Montreal; Dr. Ron Bayne, Hamilton; Corabel Penfold, Alan B. Larochelle and Charles McDonald, Toronto; Mary Davis, Edmonton and Chuck Bayley, Vancouver.

Canada-Brazil trade expands

Two-way trade between Canada and Brazil increased by \$70 million in 1979, with most of the increase attributable to higher Brazilian exports to Canada.

Final figures for the year show Canadian exports to Brazil at \$418.5 million, slightly higher than the 1978 figure of \$417.4 million. Imports from Brazil totalled \$313.1 million, up from \$248.3 million in 1978.

The 1979 two-way trade figure was \$731 million compared with the 1969 figure of \$92 million.

Wheat was Canada's leading export to Brazil in both 1978 and 1979. However, 1979 wheat sales were \$104 million less than in 1978.

Despite this substantial drop in wheat sales, Canada's total 1979 exports to Brazil were slightly higher than in 1978.

Other leading Canadian exports in 1979 were newsprint, fertilizers, rapeseed, precious metals, alloys, coal, aluminium, and aircraft engines.

Leading Brazilian exports to Canada were frozen orange juice concentrate, coffee, motor vehicle engines, iron ore, cocoa and chocolate, plate, sheet and strip steel, and footwear.

(From Brazil-Canada Newsletter, April 1980.)

Condolence message

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau sent a message of condolence to the Yugoslavian Government following the death of President Josip Broz Tito on May 4.

In his message, Prime Minister Trudeau called the President "a legend in his own time whose vision and influence extended far beyond Yugoslavia".

"We will remember him for his persistent pursuit of détente, disarmament and improved relations between all states. I am confident the strong and independent Yugoslavia which emerges under his leadership will continue to pursue the goals of international peace and stability to which President Tito devoted his life," said Mr. Trudeau.

Governor-General Edward Schreyer and his wife Lily lead the Canadian delegation to the President's funeral in Belgrade May 9.

Job vacancies record high

Job vacancies for accountants, engineers, scientists and other professionals were at a record high in April in spite of the economic slowdown, according to a survey conducted by the Technical Service Council of Toronto.

The survey of 1,600 firms showed 3,155 vacancies, up 8.4 per cent from December, and 34 per cent over the first quarter of 1979.

The increase was largely the result of a slowdown in the speed with which employers were able to fill jobs, rather than an increase in the rate jobs were being created. Only Alberta reported an increase in job creation with new vacancies up 33 per cent in the first quarter over a year earlier.

Ontario showed the largest increase in vacancies, up 41.7 per cent over last year. There were 1,624 vacant professional jobs in Ontario, compared with 1,172 in the prairies, 386 in British Columbia and 376 in Quebec.

For the first time since the council started recording job vacancies over 50 years ago, one job specialty — computer systems analysts — had 300 openings. They were over 100 vacancies in each of six professions, computer programmers, mechanical sales engineers, plant engineers, chemical process engineers, electronic technologists and accountants.

Gardening and rehabilitation stamps issued by Canada Post

Commemorative postage stamps devoted to gardening and rehabilitation are to be issued by Canada Post on May 29.

The 17-cent stamps focus attention on two events taking place in Canada this year. *Les Florales internationales de Montréal*, from May 17-

September 1 and the fourteenth World Congress of Rehabilitation International in Winnipeg from June 22-27. The Congress will be a prelude to 1981, "International Year for Disabled Persons" proclaimed by the United Nations.

The gardening stamp designed by Heather Cooper of Toronto illustrates the lush, colour-rich fusion of a garden bed of growing flowers. Montreal designer Rolf Harder has produced the rehabilitation stamp using the embossing process. Graphically, the stamp represents two hands, one supporting the other, to symbolize the motivating force behind rehabilitation: the idea of people helping people.

