

**Currency** — The unit of currency in Finland is the Markka (FIM). As of February 1984, Can \$1.00 was equivalent to FIM 4.70.

**Business Hours** — Most offices are open from 0800 to 1630 hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday to Friday. Offices are usually closed or operate with minimum staff during the lunch hour from 1200 to 1300 (12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.). Summer office hours are 0800 to 1600 (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). As a rule, government offices are open Monday to Friday from 0800 to 1615 (8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.) in winter and 0800 to 1515 (8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.) in summer. Banks are open from 0915 to 1615 hours (9:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.) Monday to Friday throughout the year. The post office is open from 0900 to 1700 hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday, with a closing time of 1800 (6:00 p.m.) on Friday in summer. Shops are open from 0900 to 2000 (9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) Monday and Friday (in centre of cities) from 0900 to 1800 (9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) Tuesday and Thursday and from 0900 to 1500 (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) on Saturday. The Canadian Embassy observes general business hours 0830 to 1630 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) during the winter months and from 0800 to 1600 (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday during June, July and August.

**Holidays** — The following is a list of official public holidays in Finland:

**New Year's Day** — *January 1*

**Good Friday**

**Easter Monday**

**May Day** — *May 1*

**Mid Summer Eve** — *June (Friday)*

**Independence Day** — *December 6*

**Christmas Eve** — *December 24*

**Christmas Day** — *December 25*

**Boxing Day** — *December 26*

## **Economic Information**

The economic system in Finland is based on private ownership and free enterprise with the government acting primarily as a regulatory force and setting the broad parameters for economic development. There are some wholly state-owned companies and others where government has an equity position. Finnish