

CROSS CANADA CURRENTS

New Secretary of State for External Affairs

As a result of a recent Cabinet shuffle, Canada now has a new Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Honourable Barbara McDougall, formerly Minister for Employment and Immigration, has taken over the External Affairs portfolio from the Right Honourable Joe Clark, who held the post for the past six and a half years, longer than any minister since the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson.

Born in Toronto, Ontario, Mrs. McDougall was first elected to the House of Commons in September 1984. That same month she joined the Cabinet as Minister of State for Finance; two years later, she was appointed Minister of State for Privatization and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. That same year, Mrs. McDougall was appointed Minister Responsible for Regulatory Affairs.

In March 1988, she became Minister of Employment and Immigration and continued to serve as Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. Some of her accomplishments as Minister of Employment and Immigration include major reforms to the Unemployment Insurance Act, the creation of the Labour Force Development Strategy and the introduction of Canada's first five-year Plan for Immigration and Refugees to Canada. Following the Cabinet shuffle of April 1991, Mrs. McDougall became Secretary of State for External Affairs and chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence Policy.

Before entering politics, Mrs. McDougall received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and from 1964 to 1974 was an investment analyst. She became investment manager for the North West Trust Company of Edmonton in 1974, and in 1976, Vice-President of A.E. Ames and Company Limited of Toronto. Throughout this period, Mrs. McDougall was also a business journalist and commentator for national magazines, newspapers and television.

Joe Clark is now the Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs and President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada. Mr. Clark leaves External Affairs at a high point, after winning praise at home and abroad for his efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the war in the Persian Gulf.

Other changes in key Cabinet positions see Michael H. Wilson — Canada's longest-serving finance minister — moved to become both Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade. Mr. Wilson is Canada's representative at the U.S.-Canada-Mexico free trade negotiations.

Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski is now the new Minister of Finance.

Flanola?



Grant V. Paint / The Image Bank

Even though they cannot swim or live underwater some canola plants may soon have something in common with flounder, a fish prevalent in the icy waters of the north Atlantic. A team of Canadian researchers hopes to transplant the antifreeze gene that keeps the flounder from freezing into the canola plant — an oilseed crop that is often damaged by unseasonable frosts.

Scientists have known for years that flounder produce an antifreeze protein during winter months. Adrian Cutler, Mohammed Saleem and Fawzy George, researchers from the Plant Biotechnology Institute in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, wondered whether the same protein could work in plants.

Early experiments showed that when the protein was induced to penetrate the leaves of the canola plant, the freezing temperature was lowered 1.8°C. In later genetic experiments, the

Canola: an oilseed that is often damaged by unseasonable frosts.

researchers discovered that the flounder gene associated with the antifreeze, when introduced into the plant, causes the plant to manufacture its own antifreeze protein.

Canola crops bring in more than \$900 million to Canada's Prairie provinces, and any attempts to prevent damage due to spring or autumn frosts is worthwhile. Dr. Cutler says the technology will help to alleviate the frost problem with no toxic effects and without altering the taste of the plant.

The team's work holds promise for other crops, such as Florida citrus. According to Dr. George, "The sky is the limit — virtually any crop that is frost-sensitive could benefit."