

Post Office becomes newest Crown corporation

The Post Office Department was changed into a Crown corporation, the Canada Post Corporation, on October 16.

At a ceremony in Ottawa, Postmaster General André Ouellet handed over responsibility for the operation of the Post Office to the new president Michael Warren and to René Marin, chairman of the Board of Directors.

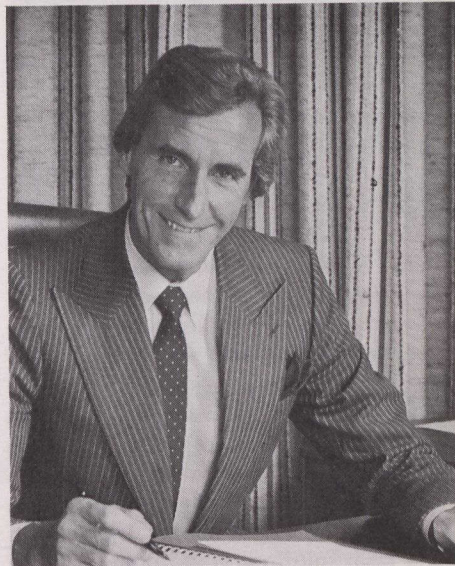
"This new Crown corporation is a major step by the federal government to provide Canadians with a modern efficient postal service," said Mr. Ouellet.

Social responsibility

The transition from a federal government department to a Crown corporation puts the postal service on a similar footing to other government agencies having a commercial or industrial role as well as a social responsibility.

The new Crown corporation — the first ever to be converted from a government department — will report to the federal government through a minister. It will have responsibility for labour relations, its own financial affairs and the provision of high quality service.

Crown corporation status for the Canadian postal service has been the subject of much study and examination. The idea of turning the Post Office into a Crown corporation was first suggested in the report of the Glassco Commission in 1962. The proposal was again made in



Michael Warren takes over as president of the new Canada Post Corporation.

1966 by Justice Montpetit in his Commission report. In 1968, the federal government commissioned 15 studies on the possibility of the Post Office as a Crown corporation. The overwhelming conclusion of the reports was positive.

In 1978, a further government study led to the introduction in Parliament of legislation to convert the Post Office to a Crown corporation. Two elections intervened and the present bill was introduced in July 1980 and passed by the House of Commons and Senate in April 1981.

Self-sufficiency sought

At the ceremony proclaiming Canada Post Corporation, Mr. Warren said that the goals of the new corporation would be "to improve service; to create more harmonious and productive labour management relationships; and to achieve financial self-sufficiency.

He added that "with the right attitude and dedication" the corporation could initiate changes that would allow Canada Post "to grow, to innovate, to build an organization that can lead and anticipate customer demands for new and better communication services".

The Canada Post Corporation is the fifth largest employer in Canada with a staff complement of about 62,000 Canadians. With more than 8,000 facilities, it is the largest single retail operation in Canada and its more than \$2 billion annual budget places it in the top 50 corporations in Canada.

Canada-Tunisia relations discussed

Tunisian Minister of Planning and Finance Mansour Moalla recently visited Ottawa where he met with a number of Canadian government officials.

The visit was part of a renewal of Canadian-Tunisian relations that began last June with the visit of Justice Minister M'Hamed Chaker.

During his visit Mr. Moalla met with Minister of Regional Economic Expansion Pierre De Bané and Minister of State for Trade Edward Lumley. The Tunisian minister also held talks with Marcel Massé, president of the Canadian International Development Agency and Sylvain Clouthier, president of the Export Development Corporation.

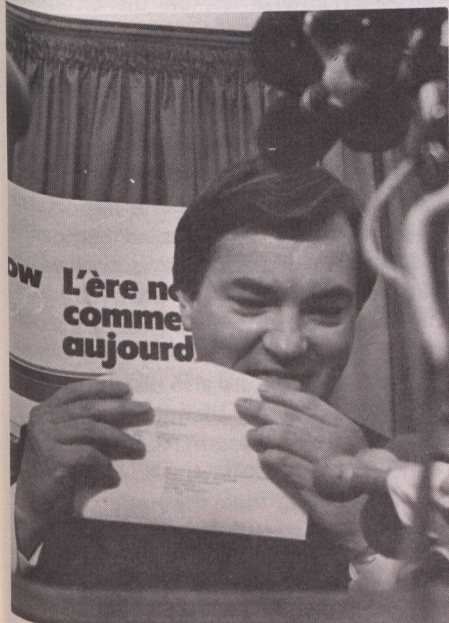
Their discussions centred on trade and co-operation programs instituted by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Export Development Corporation. Mr. Moalla and the Canadian representatives also discussed two agreements currently being negotiated, one on double taxation and the other on investment insurance.

International youth work program

Eighty-five Europeans and 45 Canadians participated in this year's International Workcamp (IWC) program.

European volunteers at the four Canadian camps (Sardis, British Columbia; Smeaton, Saskatchewan; Guelph, Ontario and Murray River, Prince Edward Island) came from Algeria, Morocco, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, France, Britain, Ireland, West Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Canadians took part in IWCs in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, France, Britain, Ireland, West Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Turkey and Czechoslovakia. Work camp programs in these countries included: nature conservation, alternative energy and solidarity camps, renovation of holiday camps for children, aiding a community housing association, sorting and packing clothes for refugee camps in Southern Africa, manual work in a therapeutic community for young drug addicts, renovation of houses and schools for community activities, and digging a water trench for a village that had no fresh water supply, among others. The Canadian Bureau of International Education, which sponsors the IWC program in Canada, expects to expand the program next year.



Mr. Ouellet seals the envelope of the letter addressed to Mr. Trudeau symbolizing his last act as Postmaster General.