

## New Constitution (Cont'd from P. 2)

well as measures for establishing new rights for Canadian citizens, to live and work wherever they wish in Canada, and new protection for minority language rights, such as the right of English or French language minorities to receive basic services from governments and schooling for their children in their language.

The Government believes legislative powers should be distributed between the federal and provincial governments to ensure an effective functioning of governments in the service of the people. Canada is already a very decentralized Federation so the solution will not lie in a massive shift of powers from the Federal Government to the provinces. Rather, the Government anticipates a judicious combination of changes, with some give-and-take between governments.

\* \* \* \*

At present, a number of important principles and institutions are touched on only very indirectly, or not at all, in our written Constitution. It seems appropriate for the Constitution to say something about such institutions and principles, and the Government will make proposals to this effect.

### Senate replacement

A House of the Federation would replace the Senate. It would provide a role for the provinces in the selection of its members, and for a proportionately greater representation to the eastern and especially to the western parts of the country.

The Supreme Court, a pillar of our system, should be provided for in the Constitution. It seems appropriate that the provincial governments should have a voice when appointments to the Court are

made by the Government of Canada.

Agreement should be reached to enable us to amend all aspects of our Constitution.

\* \* \* \*

### Timetable and process

*Phase I* — of the process should cover those matters upon which Parliament can legislate on its own authority. These include the Supreme Court, the House of the Federation, the federal executive, the Statement of Aims and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This phase should be completed and legislation passed by July 1, 1979.

*Phase II* — of the process should cover those matters whose amendment requires the co-operation of federal and provincial authorities. The Federal Government would like to see this phase completed so

that we might proclaim the new Constitution of Canada before July 1, 1981.

In 1981, we shall mark the fiftieth anniversary of Canada's accession, by the Statute of Westminster, to formal independence and international sovereignty. It would be desirable to celebrate that anniversary by proclaiming our new Constitution.

The Government will soon be informing Parliament and all Canadians of the details of its proposals under Phase I of constitutional renewal. There is no expectation that these proposals would be passed in this session or without change. They should form a basis for a wide discussion. From this, a final version should result which can provide the first step towards constitutional renewal.

\* \* \* \*

### News briefs

The Quebec government will soon begin a program to assist French-speaking minorities in other provinces, according to Claude Morin, Intergovernmental Affairs Minister. About \$500,000 has been set aside to help finance projects submitted by French-speaking minority groups in various provinces. Though it has no political responsibility for the groups, the government feels an obligation of another order. "We believe that we have a sort of moral responsibility towards French-speaking persons outside Quebec," said the minister.

Methods to reduce high mercury levels in the English-Wabigoon river system in northwest Ontario will be evaluated over a year in a \$100,000 federal-provincial project to begin immediately. Indian bands affected by the poisoning of fish in the region will be kept informed of the work's progress and will be involved in the field work.

Sales of North American-built cars rose 9.2 per cent in May to a total of 91,970 units, compared with 84,204 units in May 1977 according to figures released by the auto makers. Sales of trucks, mostly vans and light-duty pickup trucks, rose 21.3 per cent to 38,973 units, compared with 32,119 in the previous May. Combined sales of cars and trucks totalled 130,943 units, up 12.6 per cent from 116,323 in May last year. The rise in car sales marked the second conse-

cutive month of increases, reversing a downward trend in sales that began in November last year.

Exploration in the Arctic islands has resulted in the discovery of seven natural gas fields with marketable pipeline reserves of 12.7 trillion cubic feet, Pan-arctic Oils Ltd. says in its annual report.

The federal and Ontario governments have agreed to launch the first phase of a 25-year nuclear-waste management development program that should lead to the construction of an underground storage facility capable of holding all the accumulated spent nuclear fuel to the turn of the century.

In-shore fishermen in the Atlantic groundfish industry will continue to receive special assistance payments until October 1, with no application of countervailing duties by the U.S. Because of improvements in resources, market returns and prices to fishermen, the payments for the groundfish fishery will not be necessary beyond that date.

At the newly-opened UNESCO Pavilion at Man and His World, the site of Expo '67 in Montreal, Quebec, the International Civil Aviation Organization is marking the seventy-fifth anniversary of Wilbur and Orville Wright's historical flight in December 1903. ICAO is sponsoring an international children's contest on the theme, "A World that Moves on Wings", stressing safety in the air, and has arranged displays of historic aeroplanes and a preview of future aircraft.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.