Royal Canadian Mint Launches Olympic Coin Program



October saw the launch of Canada's Olympic Coin programme in Singapore and around the world. To mark the occasion, a special presentation of the first two coins was made to the Singapore Minister of Law, Mr. E. W. Barker, by Mr. Murray Church, Director of Communications for the Royal Canadian Mint. Mr. Barker accepted the coins in his role as President of the Singapore National Olympic Council. Revenues from the sales of the coins will help to defray the costs of the games themselves and will be used to fund amateur athletics worldwide.

The collection of 10 coins will commemorate the 1988 Winter Olympics to be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The coins are being crafted in 925 fine sterling silver and each will weigh one Troy ounce. The \$20 coins, all legal tender, will have a strictly limited combined mintage of five million world-wide. They will be released in pairs, at six month intervals, leading up to the opening of the Games in Calgary in 1988, and will capture, in silver, the flowing motions of the sports of the Winter Olympics: downhill and cross-country skiing, speed and figure skating, hockey, curling, ski-jumping, bobsledding, and the biathalon. The designs were selected after a nationwide competition among Canada's finest artists and graphic designers. The coins are being taken from the drawing board through die-casting to production by the Royal Canadian Mint which is renowned around the world for its advanced technology and its rigourous standards of craftsmanship and quality.

The Royal Canadian Mint was established in Ottawa in 1908 and has branches in Hull, Quebec and Winnipeg, Manitoba, employing over 640 people. Since its establishment, it has been responsible for producing and supplying coinage for Canada. Last year, over 1.26 billion coins, with a face value of over \$5.5 billion, were minted for circulation within Canada. Over the years, the Mint has become an active player on the world stage, having produced coins for some 35 countries. Being one of the largest and most versatile mints in the world, the Royal Canadian Mint treats precious metals and coins of almost any size, shape, or finish. In addition to producing circulating coins for the world market, the Mint also has responsibility for the refining of gold mined in Canada and around the world and is now the largest refinery in the Western hemisphere. The Mint also produces the Canadian "Gold Maple Leaf". The "Maple Leaf" is a 999 fine gold coin which comes in one ounce, 1/4 ounce, and 1/10 ounce sizes. It is aimed at the indi-

vidual investor in Canada and overseas.



Testing the gold content in the assay department.

In 1984, sales reached over one million ounces, proving that the "Maple Leaf" has become one of the most popular gold bullion investment coins in the world thereby insuring a bright future for the Royal Canadian Mint, investors and coin collectors alike.



A newly-minted silver bullion investment