

options; clarify exemptions for certain health-care services and broaden the exemption for homemaker services; zero-rate the conversion of vehicles for the disabled; provide a simpler "small supplier" test for charities and allow them input tax credits or rebates for allowances and reimbursements paid to their volunteers, in addition to simplifying the treatment of meal and entertainment expenses incurred by them; and clarify the requirement that financial institutions and other exempt suppliers apportion input tax credits for tax on business inputs on the basis of their use or consumption in making taxable supplies.

Clifford Clark visiting Economist Appointed

February 14, 1994, No. 94-019

David Dodge, Deputy Minister of Finance, announced that Peter Nicholson has been appointed as the 1994-95 Clifford Clark Visiting Economist in the Department of Finance. Dr. Nicholson is currently Senior Vice-President and Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Bank of Nova Scotia. Occupants of the position advise the department on emerging economic issues and take part in policy development at the highest level.

Finance Minister Announces Federal Budget Date

February 11, 1994, No. 94-018

Finance Minister Paul Martin announced that he will present his budget in the House of Commons at 17:00 EST on February 22, 1994. Mr. Martin noted that, as for past budgets, this budget may contain measures that take effect on budget day. In this event, such measures may be effective from midnight February 21, the day preceding the budget presentation. This practice of proposing measures effective on budget day follows the procedure adopted in prior years and ensures uniform application of budget measures to transactions entered into on that day, wherever the transactions occur in Canada. This announcement provides appropriate notice so that interested parties can take this into account in planning their financial affairs.

Ways and Means Motion to Amend the Excise Tax Act Tabled in the Commons

February 10, 1994, No. 94-017

Secretary of State for Finance Doug Peters tabled in the House of Commons a Notice of Ways and Means Motion to amend the Excise Tax Act in response to tobacco tax reductions announced by the Government of New Brunswick. This motion implements another part of the federal government's action plan on tobacco smuggling announced by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on February 8, 1994, in which he undertook to further reduce excise taxes on tobacco products, in line with provincial tobacco tax reductions.

Canadian International Development Agency:

South African Electoral Candidates to Visit Canada

February 4, 1994, No. 94-03

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced the arrival in Canada of three candidates in South Africa's first democratic, multiracial elections. The African National Congress candidates will observe Canadian government processes in work placements with the offices of the premiers of Ontario, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. "Canada has agreed to open the doors of its government to several key South African personalities. Such initiatives underscore our commitment to South Africa's transition toward democratic rule and the success of free elections in April" said Mr. Ouellet.

STATISTICS CANADA:

The All-items Consumer Price Index increased by 1.3 percent between January 1993 and 1994, to 131.3.
(The Daily, February 16, 1994)

In 1992, the average household income was \$46 756, virtually unchanged from 1991 after adjusting for inflation as measured by changes in the Consumer Price Index. Despite the lack of growth in real income, households in 1993 continued to acquire time-saving and leisure equipment. The ownership of video cassette recorders and CD players increased in all income groups.
(The Daily, February 14, 1994)

During 1993, same-day car trips by Canadian residents to the U.S. decreased 15.2 percent to 48.3 million. Travel of one or more nights to the United States by all modes of travel decreased 6.9 percent from 1992, to 17.3 million. Trips of one or more nights to Canada by residents of the U.S. increased by 1.5 percent in 1993, to 12 million. Comparable trips by residents of all other countries increased 5.6 percent to 3.1 million. Notable increases were recorded for Germany (+ 17.2 percent to 344 000), France (+ 16.7 percent to 362 000) and Mexico (+ 14.5 percent to 75 000). (The Daily, February 11, 1994)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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| March 1994: | Inter-American Development Bank Annual Meeting (Guadalajara) |
| March 22-25 1994: | Canada Expo94 (Mexico City, Mexico) |
| March 24-25, 1994: | APEC Environment Ministers Meeting (Vancouver, B.C.) |
| June 5-11, 1994: | OAS Annual Assembly (Belem, Brazil) |
| July 8-10: | G-7 Economic Summit (Naples, Italy) |

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