

## Nation-wide response to Year of the Child

Governments, groups, individuals and children themselves are planning a year of projects in Canada to celebrate the International Year of the Child (IYC) this year.

The Federal Government has appointed a commission, headed by Judge Doris Ogilvie of Fredericton, New Brunswick, to oversee celebrations. The commission, a group of about 40 persons from the federal and provincial governments, voluntary organizations, labour and business, has \$1 million in federal money to help finance activities across the country.

Efforts have already been undertaken to give children more legal protection than they now enjoy. A parliamentary committee on justice and legal affairs is considering a private member's bill entitled *Bill of Rights for Children Act*.

Another bill was introduced in Parliament to broaden the Criminal Code definition of obscenity. It includes provisions against parental kidnapping and child abuse and would require wives and husbands to testify against one another in cases where the victim of assault is under 14.

### Looking to the future

The Ontario government has given IYC the theme, "Today is for Tomorrow" and is urging society to look for steps now that will prevent tragedies in the future. Funds allocated from the provincial lottery to the province's Ministry of Community and Social Services will be used in an immunization campaign and a preventative dental care program; opening of a boarding school for children with learning disabilities; special attention to new Canadian children learning English as a second language and programs for sports and fitness.

The government in British Columbia is creating an inter-ministry committee to plan and co-ordinate activities to mark the special year. The celebrations will be similar to previous observances of Family Month, in which more than 100 communities across the province participated.

Quebec is to enact a new youth protection law, which emphasizes the use of human and social measures in dealing with juvenile delinquents, rather than use of the courts. It also favours keeping children within a family setting instead of placing them in institutions.

The Alberta government is funding pri-

vate group projects — with a maximum of \$2,000 for each group — and government committees.

Saskatchewan has set aside \$70,000 for project financing and \$30,000 for an administrative council which will disperse funds.

The Nova Scotia government is helping to set up an informal co-ordinating committee for IYC, but no provincial funds have been allotted.

A study on children in New Brunswick and services available to them, to be published in brochure form, is being undertaken by that province. Individual departments in the province will run nutrition and health programs.

### Doll exhibition

Meanwhile, the ethnology Department of Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum is marking the International Year of the Child with an unusual exhibition of more than 250 dolls, from February 9 to July 8.

The exhibit represents not only the native and immigrant cultures of Canada, but also suggests how dolls have been used in similar ways throughout the ages and in many diverse societies. Dolls are featured that have been used variously as ceremonial or ritualistic objects, as symbols, as works of art, as teaching models, and most often, as toys.

The oldest doll on display, made of rag, and stuffed with fibre, comes from Egypt and is dated from 0-500 A.D.



*Cloth dolls, made in Quebec in the early twentieth century, wear warm habitant-style clothing and knitted caps.*

## Safety for Garrison water project

The United States has promised that Canadian waters would not be damaged through development of the Garrison diversion project in North Dakota.

Speaking at a news conference following meetings with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus, Environment Minister Len Marchand commented: "I don't think as a Canadian minister I could ask for much more."

The Manitoba government is concerned that waters diverted by the Garrison project will damage wildlife in Manitoba rivers.

The U.S. Government, which has resumed work on portions of the North Dakota diversion project, will consult the Canadian Government before making any recommendations to President Carter on an environmental assessment of the new construction program, Mr. Andrus said. The environmental statement will be completed soon.

The U.S. Interior Department has devised a preferred plan which would reduce the size of the Garrison project.

The full project would irrigate 250,000 acres and cost \$625 million, while the reduced program would irrigate 96,000 acres at a cost of \$365 million.

Canada told the U.S. last April that the new program could still lead to serious damage to water quality and wildlife in this country.

## Rwanda/Canada investment pact

Economic and trade links between Canada and Rwanda were strengthened on January 30, in Kigali, capital of the Republic of Rwanda, with the signature of a bilateral Investment Protection Agreement.

The agreement facilitates insurance of investments under the Export Development Corporation's Investment Guarantee Program, which insures Canadian investors against loss of their overseas investments by reason of political actions in the host country.

The African nations of Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Morocco and Malawi, Senegal, and 18 other nations have signed similar agreements with Canada. Each recognizes the importance of investment and expanded trade links with Canada.