

Jim Pattison is named Chairman of the Board. In addition to being Commissioner General, Patrick Reid is named President of the Transpo Corporation. Michael Burns is named Interim General Manager and Deputy Commissioner General. The first Board meeting is held.

MARCH 1981

An international jury chooses Bruno Freschi as Chief Architect and Freschi begins to form a site planning team. International brochures are produced describing the site in general terms. Invitations to participate are sent to the 156 nations having diplomatic relations with Canada. Premier Bennett appoints Alvin Narod as Chairman and CEO of BC Place

APRIL 1981

Britain becomes the first international participant to announce. The Federal Government commits 60 million dollars to a rapid transit system tied to the site. Freschi begins work on site plan. Dillingham is pouring concrete footings to begin stadium. The Pier BC budget has risen to \$51.2 million.

MAY 1981

Site planning is hampered by difficulties in land acquisition. BC Place lands anticipated for Transpo site are being withheld for housing development. Vancouver City Council taking renewed hard stand against Transpo. Council votes \$8 million contribution towards convention centre but refuses to operate the facility.

JUNE 1981

Commissioner General Reid assumes management role of project. The 60 million dollars for the rapid transit is not transmitted though the Federal Government confirms commitment.

JULY 1981

Vancouver City Council votes 7 to 4 to support Transpo with Mayor Harcourt opposed. The Federal Government's threat to withdraw the support for rapid transit unless Transpo goes ahead is tempering Harcourt's position. In response to Harcourt's pressure, BC Place has recalled 40 acres for housing development, reducing the site commitment to the BIE by over 25 percent. Transpo now appears to have 110 acres assuming BC Hydro lands can be incorporated.