

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, is pleased to announce that Canada has accepted an invitation to participate in the 1976 "Bicentennial" Tournament of Roses Parade. The Tournament Festivities have been designated as the official "kickoff" event for the United States' 200th Birthday by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. Canada, as a close neighbour and friend to the United States, will present at the Parade a bicentennial salute to the American people. The special "All Canada Salute" seven-unit section, a first in the Rose Parade history, will be composed of units sponsored by two Canadian cities (Calgary and Montreal), two provinces (Quebec and Nova Scotia), and all Canada units sponsored by the Government of Canada.

A floral banner and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride will head the Canadian Bicentennial Salute segment. The city of Calgary and the provinces of Quebec and Nova Scotia are sponsoring individual floats again while Montreal will enter a float in the Parade for the first time. Interspersed among the floats will be two bands - the first "All Canada Pipe Band" composed of 140 pipers and drummers from all parts of Canada -- from British Columbia to Nova Scotia -- and the "Scarlet and Brass" Canadian Forces Band composed of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry of Calgary and the "Vandoos" the Royal Twenty-Second Regiment of Quebec.

The famous Tournament of Roses Parade is telecast nationally in the United States and presents a unique opportunity to convey greetings from Canada to the people of every State in the American Union at the outset of the Bicentennial Year.