

Canada Weekly

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Canadian Constitution comes home to ceremony and celebration

The proclamation bringing Canada's new Constitution Act of 1982 into law and ending Britain's technical say in Canadian constitutional matters was signed by Queen Elizabeth in a historic ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, April 17.

"After 50 years of discussion we have finally decided to retrieve what is properly ours. It is with happy hearts, and with gratitude for the patience displayed by Great Britain, that we are preparing to acquire today our complete national-sovereignty," said Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at the ceremony proclaiming the act.

Goodwill extended to Canadians

After the proclamation had been signed, messages of congratulations were received from heads-of-state of a number of countries.

In a message to the Queen, United States President Ronald Reagan said, "An occasion such as this reminds us of our shared heritage and values and close ties of friendship that link us and have

made us allies in pursuing common purposes in the world. It is with great happiness and satisfaction that all Americans join me...in assuring all Canadians of our deep and lasting good will."

In Cuba, President Fidel Castro attended a reception at the Canadian embassy in Havana in honour of the event. "I am happy because the Canadian people are happy," he told his host, ambassador James Bartleman. "I sincerely share the felicity of the Canadian people on this day."

Approximately 32 000 people attended the outdoor ceremonies on Parliament Hill in Ottawa which were the highlight of the four-day celebration commencing with the Queen's arrival on April 15.

Mr. Trudeau, Governor General Edward Schreyer and Mrs. Schreyer greeted the Queen on her arrival. Other dignitaries including members of Parliament and ministers, the premiers, Conservative leader Joe Clark and New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent were also on hand to welcome the Queen.



Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip arrive on Parliament Hill in horse-drawn landau.



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The Queen arrives to military welcome in Ottawa. She was later greeted by Governor General Edward Schreyer and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

The Queen and Prince Philip arrived at Parliament Hill for the proclamation ceremony in an open horse-drawn landau under bright sunshine.

Mr. Trudeau opened the ceremonies and lauded the new Charter of Rights. "I speak of a country where every person is free to fulfil himself or herself to the utmost unhindered by the arbitrary actions of government," he said.

In addressing Quebec's decision not to participate in the ceremony Mr. Trudeau said "I know many Quebecers find themselves pulled in two directions by that decision. But one need look only at the results of the referendum in May 1980, to realize how strong is the attachment to Canada among the people of Quebec. By definition, the silent majority does not make a lot of noise. It is content to make history."

The proclamation itself was signed by the Queen and witnessed by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Justice Minister Jean Chrétien and Consumer Affairs Minister André Ouellet in his role as registrar-general. It was then read in both English and French.

The Queen later addressed the crowd, praising Canadian leaders "for the good sense and tolerance in bringing about a successful conclusion". She lauded Quebec's cultural contribution despite her sorrow that the province refused to participate in the proclamation of the country's new Constitution.

"Although we regret the absence of the premier of Quebec, it is right to associate the people of Quebec with this celebration because without them, Canada

The Proclamation

The text of the proclamation signed by the Queen, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Justice Minister Jean Chrétien and Registrar-General André Ouellet bringing into force Canada's new Constitution:

ELIZABETH THE SECOND

by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

To All To Whom these Presents shall come or whom the same may in anyway concern.

GREETING:

ELIZABETH R

(The Queen's signature)

A PROCLAMATION

Jean Chrétien

Attorney-General of Canada

WHEREAS in the past certain amendments to the Constitution of Canada have been made by the Parliament of the United Kingdom at the request and with the consent of Canada;

AND WHEREAS it is in accord with the status of Canada as an independent state that Canadians be able to amend their Constitution in Canada in all respects;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to provide in the Constitution of Canada for the recognition of certain fundamental rights and freedoms and to make other amendments to the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS the Parliament of the United Kingdom has therefore, at the request and with the consent of Canada, enacted the Canada Act, which provides for the patriation and amendment of the Constitution of Canada;

AND WHEREAS Section 58 of the Constitution Act, 1982, set out in Schedule B to the Canada Act, provides that the Constitution Act, 1982, shall, subject to Section 59 thereof, come into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation issued under the Great Seal of Canada:

NOW KNOW You that We, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, do by this Our Proclamation declare that the Constitution Act, 1982, shall, subject to Section 59 thereof, come into force on the Seventeenth day of April, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two.

OF ALL WHICH Our Loving Subjects and all others whom these Presents may concern are hereby required to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed.

At Our City of Ottawa, this Seventeenth day of April in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two and in the Thirty-first Year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command

André Ouellet

Registrar-General of Canada

P.E. Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

would not be what it is today," she said in French.

Queen meets Canadians

By the time the Queen had ended her speech, rain which had begun to fall during the ceremony, had abated and she was able to walk leisurely to the East Block on Parliament Hill where she unveiled a plaque commemorating its recent

restoration. She spoke with many spectators along the route and received a number of floral bouquets.

Other events in the day's schedule for the Queen included inspecting a guard of honour, meeting numerous dignitaries, a luncheon with the Privy Council, a parliamentary reception, posing for portraits with provincial lieutenant governors and a state dinner.



Queen Elizabeth signs the historic document while Prime Minister Trudeau (seated), Secretary of State Gerald Regan (left), Clerk of the Privy Council P.M. Pitfield and J.L. Kirby (right) look on.



Signatories to the proclamation (left to right): Registrar-General of Canada André Ouellet, Attorney-General of Canada Jean Chrétien and Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

On the previous day, the Queen had also attended a number of functions, including a gala concert featuring Canadian performers at the National Arts Centre and a dinner for Canadian achievers at the Holiday Inn.

Among the performers at the concert were Edmonton's Ukrainian Shumka dancers, the foot-stomping Calgary fiddlers, comedian David Broadfoot, singers Edward Evanko, Maureen Forrester and Louis Quilico and his son Gino, ballet dancers Evelyn Hart and David Peregrine and the Halifax troupe *Meet the Navy*, a revival of the wartime Royal Canadian Navy entertainment.

Young people attend dinner

The dinner for Canadian achievers was attended by 282 people, most of them

young, selected by members of Parliament from their ridings.

Earlier in the day Prince Philip honoured 91 Canadians at the presentation of the Duke of Edinburgh gold awards in Rideau Hall, the Governor General's residence. The award is given to Canadians between the ages of 14 and 25 who excel in leisure activities of public service, exploration, hobbies or skills and fitness.

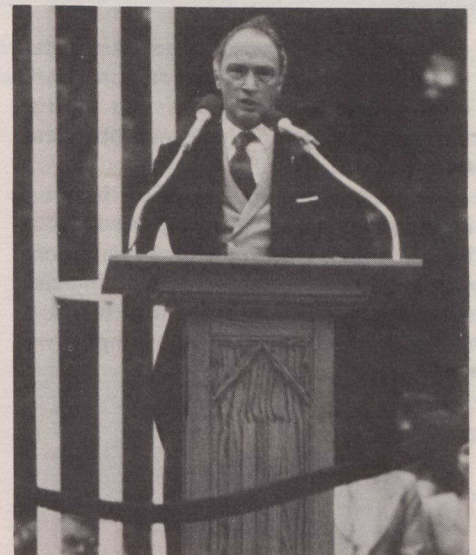
The Queen moved effortlessly through her taxing four-day Ottawa schedule, earning respect of everyone she met and charming most of them. She had a smile for each and every one of the hundreds of persons she met — from the Canadian establishment to the anonymous people in the crowd who stood in the rain on Parliament Hill.

The Queen's press secretary, Michael Shea said the Queen found her stay in Canada "an enormously successful, enjoyable and historic visit".

"The ceremony was second to none and it was a magnificent occasion," said the Queen.

BNA Act basis for Constitution

The Canadian Constitution consists of many laws as well as political conventions and judicial practices, but its main document is a British law, the British North America (BNA) Act of 1867, which defines the separation of powers in the federal system. At the time of the writing of the Act, the founding fathers of Canada took the attitude if future changes to the Act were needed, Canadians could simply ask the British Parliament to amend it. This has happened 23 times in 115 years, the last amendment being the passage of



Prime Minister Trudeau addresses the crowd before the signing.

legislation allowing the Constitution Act 1982 to come into force.

The Constitution Act 1982 puts an end to this anachronistic practice by which Canada, a fully sovereign nation, still had to ask a foreign Parliament, the British Parliament, to legislate changes to its Constitution. Since the 1920s and 1930s when Canada gained its full independence, Canadians have tried but have failed to agree among themselves on a procedure for making amendments to the BNA Act. Negotiations between the federal and provincial governments in 1927, 1931, 1935, 1949, 1960, 1964, 1971, 1978, 1979 and 1980 all ended in disagreement. An agreement between the federal and nine provincial governments in November 1981 on the contents of the



Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip stand on the dais during the ceremony.

Constitution Act 1982, which included an amending formula, however ended the 55 year impasse.

The Constitution Act 1982

Apart from its historic significance, the Act adds important new provisions to the present Canadian Constitution. These include:

- a Charter of Rights and Freedoms that acknowledges the supremacy of God and the rule of law, protects the rights that Canadians have traditionally enjoyed, and recognizes important new rights;
- recognition of Canada's multicultural heritage;
- affirmation of the existing rights of the native peoples;
- the principle of equalization, which refers to the long-standing tradition of sharing wealth among the provinces through payments from the revenues of the federal government;
- provisions that confirm and strengthen the provincial ownership of resources; and
- an amending procedure that ensures that all changes to the Constitution can be made in Canada.

The Constitution Act 1982 is not a new Canadian Constitution; the BNA as well as other important laws that touch on constitutional matters remain in existence and are incorporated into the Constitution Act 1982. For example, the



A large crowd was on hand to view the ceremony despite the rain that fell later in the day. A young couple watch the proceedings from their perch on the wall.



The Queen and Prince Philip, preceded by Lady-in-waiting Michelle Nolin-Raynaud, stroll through the crowd.

BNA Act now becomes the Constitution Act 1867.

Renewal of the Constitution

The proclamation of the Constitution Act 1982 is the culmination of nearly two years of intense political activity in Canada. On May 20, 1980 the majority of Quebecois voting in a referendum refused to grant the provincial government a mandate to negotiate a new political relationship with the rest of Canada, an arrangement called "sovereignty-association". In response to political commitments made during the referendum, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau called on the premiers of each of the provincial governments — British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland — to prepare for a federal-provincial conference that would reform the Constitution and renew Canadian federalism.

In September 1980, the Prime Minister and the ten premiers failed to reach agreement on any of the 12 subjects on the agenda of the conference. The items discussed were the patriation of the Constitution with a new amending formula, a preamble to the Constitution, the entrenchment of a bill of rights, the principle of equalization, the reform of the Senate and the Supreme Court, and the reallocation of the powers between the

levels of government to legislate on natural resources, offshore resources, fisheries, communications, family law and the economy.

The reason for the failure, like the previous attempts to reform the Constitution in the Sixties and Seventies, was that the provinces and the federal government could not reconcile competing views on how to modify the Constitution. The provinces, or at least the majority, thought it was essential, first of all, to discuss the distribution of constitutional power in the federal system. The Canadian government's priority was a patriated Constitution with a bill of rights.

Faced with the deadlock, the Canadian government decided to move unilaterally to reform the Constitution. A resolution was introduced in the Canadian Parliament in October 1980 requesting the British Parliament to "patriate" the Constitution with a new Charter of Rights, an amending formula and a provision for equalization payments. Although the main opposition party, the Progressive Conservatives, supported in principle the idea of a Charter of Rights, they opposed the notion that the Canadian government could make such important constitutional changes with only the support of two of the ten provinces. The other party in Parliament, the New Democratic Party, gave its support to the proposal once the Liberal government agreed to include a provision strengthening the provincial powers over natural resources.

Special parliamentary committee

The constitutional package aroused great interest among the Canadian public. A Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons became the first parliamentary committee to televise its hearings and it received over 1 200 briefs and letters from groups and individuals. As a result of its hearings, more than 70 substantive changes were made to the government's original proposal.

The majority of the provinces argued that unilateral action by the Canadian Parliament, even after the report of the joint committee, went against the practice and spirit of federalism. They claimed that in a federal system there were two levels of governments, and the federal government could not make important constitutional changes without the consent of the provincial governments. Six provinces at the beginning and two more later on took their case to the courts to contest the constitutionality of the federal resolution. The Manitoba and

Quebec Courts of Appeal ruled that while affecting provincial jurisdiction, the resolution was legal, but the Newfoundland Court of Appeal declared it illegal.

The Supreme Court of Canada was called on to settle the appeals on all three judgements. In an historical judgement on September 29, 1981, the Supreme Court ruled that while Parliament was within its legal rights to proceed alone, the constitutional resolution of the government of Canada was not in accordance with a "convention" which required a "substantial measure of provincial consent" for amendments to the BNA Act. The Court stated however that it was up to the political actors to define what was meant by "substantial provincial consent".

Following the ruling Prime Minister Trudeau convened a conference with the ten premiers in order to obtain provincial consent for the constitutional resolution. Eight of the ten premiers, who had signed an accord among themselves in April 1981, wanted a different amending formula and the dropping of the Charter of Rights from the resolution. On November 5, 1981 the government of Canada and nine provincial governments reached an agreement. The Charter of Rights was modified and a different amending formula, favoured by the provinces, was adopted.

The Quebec government was the only province that refused to sign the constitutional accord. It objected to two aspects of the Charter: one, it thought that minority language education rights would have a detrimental effect on its own linguistic policies and two, it stated that the mobility rights posed problems for the province's ability to adopt policies favouring employment of local workers in Quebec. Furthermore, Quebec Premier René Lévesque, who had signed the April accord with seven other premiers, did not support the new amending formula favoured by the other provinces. The formula only provided for the payment of compensation by the federal government in cases where a province "opted out" of (i.e. refused to accept for itself) amendments that transferred legislative powers in education and other cultural matters from the provinces to the national Parliament. The Quebec government insisted that in all instances where a province "opted out" of a transfer of legislative powers, compensation should be payable. Furthermore, the government of the province of Quebec argued that it should have a right of veto of constitutional amendments.

The historic accord between the



Left to right: former Ontario Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon, Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip and Prime Minister Trudeau attend gala at National Arts Centre.

federal and provincial governments as well as the addition of other amendments taking account of concerns raised by the Quebec government, aboriginal groups and women cleared the way for the presentation of a new resolution to Parliament. When the House of Commons and the Senate passed the resolution in December 1981, it formed the basis of a Joint Address to the Queen, asking that the British Parliament pass the Canada Act and patriate the constitution.

The resolution was first read in the British House of Commons on December 22, 1981 and received third and final reading March 8, 1982. It was then introduced into the House of Lords and was given final reading and passed March 25. The Queen's assent was signified at Westminster on March 29, exactly 115 years to the day that Queen Victoria gave her assent to the British North America Act, which created the Canadian federation.

Freedoms guaranteed

Of most importance to individual Canadians is probably the entrenchment of a Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the Canadian Constitution. Although Canadians have traditionally enjoyed extensive human rights, few of these rights were written into the Constitution. They were protected by Acts of Parliament and provincial legislatures, judicial decisions and some provisions of the BNA Act. There was however no guarantee that cer-

tain fundamental freedoms and rights could not be taken away or abused by governments. Writing the Charter into the Constitution makes it much more difficult for any government to tamper with basic human rights and freedoms. The entrenchment of a Charter of Rights also favours the rights of the citizen and limits the power of governments. It gives individuals the power to appeal to the courts if they feel their rights have been infringed or denied.

Many of the liberties spelled out in the Charter are those associated with a free society. These include fundamental freedoms (freedom of religion, thought and expression, freedom of the press, freedom to assemble and associate freely, and freedom of conscience) democratic rights (the right of every citizen to vote in an election and the rules for the duration and session of Parliament and the provincial legislatures) and legal rights (the right to be secure against unreasonable seizure or search, to be informed promptly of the reason for arrest or detention, and to be represented by a lawyer).

The Charter guarantees many rights and freedoms that will require a certain amount of adjustment and change in the laws of Canada. Equality rights, for example, ensure every citizen will be entitled to equal treatment in the law of the country and to protection against discrimination on the grounds of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

For the first time in Canadian history, the Constitution recognizes the equality of women. As such, women's groups can now challenge laws that discriminate against women. Because the scope of the equality clauses is so extensive and will affect so many laws, they will only go into effect three years after the return of the Constitution to Canada.

Language rights expanded

The Charter also expands the existing language rights in Canada. The equal status of English and French as the nation's official languages in all institutions of Parliament and the federal government are entrenched in the Constitution, as is the right to the use of both languages in the legislature and government of New Brunswick. The rights previously set out in the Constitution to use either English or French in the legislatures and courts of Quebec and Manitoba will continue. Furthermore the Charter adds new guarantees of minority language education rights. Canadians who have to move around the country, or English- or French-speaking minorities living in a province of another language group, will be able to have their children educated in their own language.

In addition, the Charter will have to be interpreted so as not to deny any of the existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the native peoples of Canada — Inuit, Indian, Métis, which are officially affirmed and recognized in the Constitution Act 1982.

Finally, the Charter protects the principle of the mobility of labour, declaring that every Canadian is free to move and work anywhere in Canada. Provinces however retain the right to take "affirmative action" for their residents if their provincial employment rate is below the national average.

One feature of the Charter that is considered unique is what is called the "notwithstanding" or override clause. Both Parliament and the provincial legislatures retain a limited power to pass laws that may conflict with the fundamental freedoms, legal rights and certain equality rights of the Charter on condition the Parliament or legislature inserts a clause declaring specifically that it is passing the law "notwithstanding" the Charter. This clause expires at the end of five years, unless it is re-enacted. In other words, when governments propose laws that limit the rights and freedoms set out in the Charter, they must say clearly that is what they are doing and accept full

responsibility for the political consequences. Many constitutional experts see the arrangements as "an ingenious marriage of a bill of rights and a parliamentary democracy".

Benefits to provinces

Although the Constitution Act 1982 is not primarily concerned with the allocation of powers in the federal system, there are two constitutional provisions that will benefit directly the provinces and their ability to exercise their constitutional responsibilities. The well-accepted practice of using federal revenues to help the less wealthy provinces, the principle of equalization, is now enshrined in the Constitution. This means the federal and provincial governments are constitutionally committed to promoting equal opportunities for the well-being of all Canadians, to furthering economic development to reduce disparity in opportunities and to providing essential public services of reasonable quality to all Canadians. The other provision of interest to provincial governments in the Constitution Act 1982 is the one that confirms the exclusive provincial authority over natural resources and gives the provinces new powers respecting the interprovincial sale of resources and the indirect taxation of non-renewable resources.

Amending procedure set out

Finally, the Constitution Act 1982 provides Canadians with the framework within which changing needs and circumstances can be adapted. The amending procedure spells out for the first time how Canadians through their national and provincial governments can make changes to their Constitution.

Future changes will require the consent of the Canadian Parliament and seven provincial legislatures representing at least 50 per cent of the population of all the provinces. No single province can veto constitutional amendments under this general amending formula. However, if there is an amendment that transfers provincial powers, privileges or rights to the federal government, a province can "opt out" of that change (i.e. refuse to accept the transfer for itself) and can receive fiscal compensation if that amendment concerns education or cultural matters. In certain matters such as the monarchy, specific language rights and the composition of the Supreme Court, the consent of Parliament and all of the provincial legislatures will be required.

Bulau finishes third in World Cup ski jumping

The World Cup ski-jumping championships ended recently in Planica, Yugoslavia, with Horst Bulau of Ottawa, Ontario, placing third in the over-all standings with a total of 150 points.

Bulau, 19, had his best jump in the final competition since returning after breaking his right collarbone during a World Cup event at St. Moritz, Switzerland in January. His first jump measured 115 metres while his second on a windy course measured 91 metres.

Bulau had returned to the World Cup ski-jumping circuit only three weeks after his fall and Canadian coach Bill Bakke was pleased with Bulau's efforts.

"Considering his injury it is a very real accomplishment, but we feel maybe he is still a bit better skier than that. It does, however, reinforce that he is a world-class skier. We just hope that next year he will be able to ski through the season uninjured," said Bakke.

Chinese garden to be built in Vancouver Park

A Suzhou (Soochow) Garden will be built this spring in the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Park in Vancouver.

The classical garden will be modelled after the world-renowned Suzhou arbours in China and is expected to be the most authentic Chinese garden in North America.

Fifty Suzhou bower buildings specialists will come to Vancouver to build the garden, beginning in May. In addition to their skills, the artists will bring prefabricated pavilions to be assembled in Canada, as well as rare and valuable rocks from Lake Tai.

Features of the garden

When completed the Suzhou Garden will have false mountains, man-made ponds stocked with golden carp, terraces, bridges, and a profusion of natural materials and trees. An authentic classical garden of the Ming Dynasty vintage will be included in the park development.

As a gesture to Canada, the Chinese province of Kiangsu is providing about \$500 000 worth of labour and materials to Vancouver for the project. The City of Vancouver however, will pay for the craftsmen's wages, medical, hotel and meal expenses.

News of the arts

New exhibition on contemporary art dedicated to Canada Council

MANNERSsm: *A Theory of Culture*, held recently at the Vancouver Art Gallery was dedicated to the Canada Council which is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary year. (See *Canada Weekly* dated April 7, 1982.)

This new exhibition was concerned with the nature and place of today's art and its audience in a society in which artists are no longer the exclusive originators of visual communication.



Jim Gorman

Liquid Assets by General Idea.

Curator Jo-Anne Birnie Danzker, organizer of the exhibition said in a catalogue published for the exhibit: "I believe that all the work in this exhibition is committed to a subversive refusal of both established and stereotypic codes operating within the popular — and elite — culture, within the mass media, and certainly within the art world."

Mass media symbols reflected

Included in the exhibition were a number of recent works by artists who have adopted, manipulated and relocated the forms as well as the content of popular culture. Two and three dimensional works, produced both individually and in collaboration, reflected political, advertising, entertainment and television formats and stereotypes developed by the mass media.

Among the individual artists exhibiting were: David Buchan, Colin Campbell, Carol Conde and Karl Beveridge from Toronto; Eric Metcalfe and Mr. Peanut Vancouver Mayorality Campaign from

Vancouver; Sherrie Levine from New York; Klaus Staeck from Germany; Nicole Gravier from France; and Fernando De Filippi from Italy. Two groups, General Idea of Toronto and Art and Language of England, were also represented.

Danzker pointed out in the catalogue, that while these artists do not constitute a group or an art movement, they offer points of comparison in the methodology concerning the nature and place of art.

"All the work marches the border between what it looks like, and what it is of. Consequently, it relies heavily on such 'fugitive' practices as parody, travesty, forgery, irony, mendacity and absurdity," she added.

The catalogue also proposes definitions of both MANNERSsm and MANNERst art and briefly considers recent theories and definitions of historical Mannerism.

Film wins award

The *Art of Worldly Wisdom*, a work by Toronto filmmaker Bruce Elder, has won the Los Angeles Film Critics Association special award in the experimental film category.

The film combines personal diaries, snapshots and scenes from movies, television and advertisements in an autobiographical exploration of mortality.

When it was first shown in Los Angeles in 1981, it was proclaimed "the key new experimental work to be seen in Los Angeles so far this year".

Children's festival to open

The First Bank International Children's Festival is scheduled for May 18-24 at Harbourfront in Toronto.

This major children's festival, featuring more than 100 performances by 15 companies from Canada and other countries, is being funded in part by the Bank of Montreal, the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Citizenship through Wintario, the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council.

Harbourfront's program director and the artistic director of the festival, Roy Higgins, said he expects to earn back \$65 000 of the \$300 000 required for the festival, in box-office receipts.

The festival is being modelled after the four-year-old Vancouver Children's Festival, being held early in May. The Vancouver festival is also a co-producer of

the Harbourfront week.

Canadian entertainers involved in the Toronto festival include The Danny Grossman Dance Company, The Canadian Opera Company and a new play from John Gray and Eric Peterson, entitled *Bongo From The Congo*.

Participants from other countries include Czechoslovakia's Theatre Boleslav Polivka, Nationalteatern of Sweden, West Germany's Grips Theatre, Japan's Kaze No Ko and the Jacolly Puppet Theatre from England.

Arts briefs

The Bach Tercentary Festival Foundation of Edmonton, Alberta is already making preparations for the Tri-Bach festival to be held in 1985, the three-hundredth anniversary of the composer's birth. Sherburne McCurdy, president of Alberta College and president of the festival said plans were started early in order to secure outstanding groups and individuals. The foundation hopes to have the largest celebration of Johann Sebastian Bach in North America.

The city of Ottawa has set up a special phone line to provide bilingual information on the performing arts. Each day city staff compile the listing of performances set up for the day from information obtained from local arts groups.

Pierre Lamy, a Quebec film producer, has won the Air Canada Award for outstanding contributions to the business of film-making in Canada. He has produced *Kamouraska*, *Who Has Seen the Wind*, and *Les Deux Femmes en Or*. Previous winners were Bob and Vi Crone (1981) and George Destounis (1980).

The Canadian Images Film Festival was held recently in Peterborough. The annual event was opened by Ontario Lieutenant-Governor John Black Aird. Highlights of the four-day event included a program of international award-winning films, a major colloquium on women film-makers, and a series of seminars on the filming of performing arts.

The Canada-Belgium Literary Award for 1981, which is awarded in alternate years to French language writers in Canada and Belgium, has been received by Belgium novelist, poet and essayist Jacques-Gérard Linze in Quebec City. The prize is financed, on the Canadian side, by the Cultural Affairs Division: Arts Promotion of the Department of External Affairs and is administered by the Canada Council.

Cost sharing rehabilitation programs aid disabled

Since the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act (VRDP) was passed a little more than 20 years ago, federal-provincial cost-sharing rehabilitation programs have aided many disabled Canadians to obtain employment.

The contributions payable by the federal government represent 50 per cent of the cost incurred by the provinces and territories to provide vocational rehabilitation services for physically and mentally disabled persons. These include assessment, counselling and vocational training for disabled persons as well as individual costs of such things as artificial limbs, technical devices, and tools, equipment or special clothing needed to accept employment. The costs of transportation and maintenance allowances required by a disabled person while receiving vocational rehabilitation services are also shared. Between December 1961 and March 1981 the federal share of such services was \$222 million.

Federal government's contributions

In 1979-80 for example, the federal government's share was \$36.5 million towards services for more than 111 350 people. As part of that expenditure under the VRDP agreements the federal government contributed towards the salaries of some 520 provincial employees in vocational rehabilitation programs, the staff of approximately 220 vocational rehabilitation workshops, and 20 provincial voluntary agencies, as well as some 1 270 employees who worked in rehabilitation programs for alcoholics and drug addicts, and some 200 employees in mental health programs. More than \$10 million in federal-provincial funds were spent on training, maintenance allowances, prosthetics, or technical aids needed by disabled persons in order to undertake employment.

Among those helped under the VRDP program are persons with physical disabilities of a congenital or genetic origin or as a result of injury or debilitating disease, those recovering from mental illness, the mentally retarded, and those disabled because of alcohol or drug abuse.

All the provinces and territories (except Quebec) receive federal funds under the VRDP agreements. The rehabilitation services in Quebec are cost-shared under the Canada Assistance Plan.

News briefs

Douglas Lindores, vice-president of the multilateral division of the Canadian International Development Agency, has been elected by acclamation to the presidency of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program for 1982. Mr. Lindores has been a member of the Canadian government's delegation to the 48-member council since 1973. The United Nations Development Program is the centrepiece of the United Nations technical co-operation activities in the field of international development.

Algas Engineering Services Limited of Calgary has been awarded a \$650 000 contract to provide technical advisory services to the Petroleum Authority of Thailand. Arranged through Canadian Commercial Corporation, Algas will supply technical assistance over a six-month period for start-up operations and onshore maintenance of a natural gas pipeline stretching from the Gulf of Thailand to a point south of Bangkok. Algas Engineering Services, a subsidiary of Nova Corporation, provides project management, engineering, construction supervision, training and consulting services for natural gas gathering and transmission.

The federal and Manitoba governments have signed an historic agreement with the Four Nations Confederacy through which major responsibilities for the development and delivery of on-reserve child welfare services will be delegated to Indian authorities within several tribal or regional councils. This agreement will provide a full range of child welfare services to all Indian communities opting for the agreement. It will place a special emphasis on supportive and preventive activities such as family counselling and family and community education programs, and on increased Indian community participation and responsibility.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a \$716 250 (U.S.) allocation under a line of credit with Corporacion Financiera de Desarrollo (COFIDE) of Peru to support a sale of construction vehicles by Candev Trading Co. Inc. (CANDEV) of Brossard, Quebec, to Caceres Contratistas Generales S.A., a Peruvian contracting firm. The sale involves the supply of 12 dump trucks and one tractor manufactured by Mack Trucks Incorporated of Islington, Ontario and one 50-ton low-bow trailer manufactured by J.C. Trailer of Richmond Hill,

Ontario.

Proved crude oil reserves from the East Coast have increased Canada's supply of recoverable oil to 6.7 billion barrels, according to the Canadian Petroleum Association. It is the first increase in oil reserves in 12 years. Analysts suggest the Hibernia field could contain as much as 1.8 billion barrels of high quality crude oil.

The recent Newfoundland general election resulted in a decisive win for Premier Brian Peckford's Progressive Conservative Party, which won 44 of the 52 legislature seats. The Liberals took the other eight seats. Following the 1979 election, the Conservatives held 33 seats and the Liberals 19.

Residents of Vancouver and Victoria can tune into multicultural television in the evenings as a result of a new channel set up two years ago to provide such diverse programming. The multicultural channel provided by Premier Cablesystems Limited broadcasts from 4 p.m. to midnight. More than 300 000 cablevision subscribers view the shows which are broadcast in Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Scandinavian.

A brightly decorated van will travel around rural Kings County, Prince Edward Island as part of a federal project for parents and their preschool children. The mobile resource centre will be equipped with child development toys and material and equipment and will provide information on subjects such as child rearing, health care and nutrition. The demonstration program will enable parents and children to play, attend workshops and learn new skills in an informal setting. It is intended to promote the development of a network of volunteers who will create and run their own programs.

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