

Canada Weekly

Volume 1, No. 17

May 2, 1973



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Ottawa invites parents of thalidomide babies to seek compensation

National Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde wrote a letter to the parents of thalidomide children and made the following statement on April 4:

The drug thalidomide went on prescription sale in Canada in April 1961. Towards the end of that year, reports indicated the occurrence in foreign countries of possible adverse effects upon the children born to mothers who had taken this drug. Upon receiving confirming evidence, in February 1962, that children in foreign countries had indeed been born with deformities attributable to the drug thalidomide, the Federal Government prohibited on March 2, 1962 the further distribution of thalidomide in Canada. The Federal Government also made funds available for special programs to help thalidomide victims.

The Federal Government has maintained an active interest in this situation and has supported programs of treatment, habilitation, training and research through existing cost-sharing programs, grant structures and through direct annual grants to projects to be used in the interests of these children. Further, the Minister of Finance proposed last May that the Income Tax Act be amended so that the income derived from funds and annuities resulting from personal injury damage awards to a child, and held in trust for the child until he or she reaches age 21, shall not be taxed while the child is under 21 years of age. Thalidomide children are examples of those who could benefit from such amendment.

A complicating factor throughout the history of this unfortunate occurrence has been that distribution of thalidomide occurred in Canada under two trade names: Kevadon (Richardson-Merrell Inc.) and Talimol (Frank W. Horner Ltd).

As late as last December, my officials met and discussed the situation with representatives of Richardson-Merrell Inc., the distributor of "Kevadon", one of the brands of the drug implicated.

I, myself, have now had an opportunity to meet with representatives of Richardson-Merrell to discuss the present situation. I understand that all known thalidomide claims against that company involving its product and respecting children born in Canada outside of Quebec have now been settled. In Ontario, these settlements have been approved by the Chief Justice (Trial Division) of the Supreme Court of Ontario and by the Official Guardian of that province. I understand also that in claims settled in Nova Scotia and Manitoba, the settlements were in each case approved by the Chief Justice of the respective superior court trial divisions. Four cases have been settled in Quebec, the claimants having been represented by legal counsel. Approximately 28 cases appear to be outstanding in that province; it would appear that all but two of these are currently being dealt with by counsel for the parties. In addition to the unrepresented cases in Quebec, there appears to be about 29 other cases not represented by counsel in the other provinces. There may possibly be other claims in Canada which have not yet come to light.

Pursuant to my meeting with representatives of Richardson-Merrell Inc., I have written to every known parent or guardian of children whose claims have not been presented and who are apparently not represented by counsel, informing them of arrangements agreed to by the company and to provide the co-operation of my Department in every possible way. I have advised those parents to select counsel of their choice and informed them that the company is prepared to pay the parents' complete legal costs where a legitimate claim against the company is established. The company has also agreed to forward to me periodic reports as the matters progress. As well, the com-

pany will endeavour, wherever possible, to have any settlements approved by the Chief Justice of the Superior Court, Trial Division, in the particular province.

To ensure that every possible thalidomide claim is uncovered, it has been agreed that my Department and the company would exchange information available concerning the identifi-

cation of any case that may become known. Richardson-Merrell has indicated its complete willingness to negotiate any *bona fide* claim involving its product.

Letter from Minister of National Health and Welfare to parents or guardians of thalidomide children

It is my understanding that a child in your family has been affected by the administration of the drug thalidomide. As you can appreciate, I am deeply concerned about the well-being and the future of the victims of this tragedy. My Department and I wish to be as helpful as possible to you in facing the problems that you may experience in these circumstances.

The two brands of thalidomide which were sold in Canada were "Kevadon" distributed by Richardson-Merrell Inc. and "Talimol" distributed by Frank W. Horner Ltd. Recently, I had a meeting with representatives of Richardson-Merrell Inc. That company is very anxious to settle all outstanding *bona fide* claims against it, resulting from the taking of their

product "Kevadon", and wishes to enter into negotiation with you if you believe you have a claim against it. The company has requested that all parents of such children whose claims have not been settled and who are not represented by legal counsel select a lawyer of their choice, who can commence negotiations with the company if negotiations have not been undertaken by them. The company is prepared to pay the parents' complete legal costs in Canada in relation to any settlement reached with them.

If you believe your child to have suffered because of thalidomide treatment in Canada, would you or your lawyer be good enough to write to Mr. R.K. Laishley, Q.C., the general counsel in Canada for Richardson-Merrell Inc., at 116 Lisgar Street,

Ottawa K2P 0C2, Ontario, or you may write directly to me and I will ensure that your letter is referred to Mr. Laishley. (Quebec residents will be asked to write to the Minister or to Mr. Colin K. Irving, representing Richardson-Merrell in the province of Quebec.)

It is very much in your child's and your own interest that proper arrangements are made and I urge you, if you think that your child was affected in this way, to consult with your lawyer.

The Richardson-Merrell company has agreed to keep me informed about all thalidomide cases that come to their knowledge.

I wish to co-operate with you in every way possible and if you feel there is any area in which I can be of assistance, please write to me.

Impaired drivers beware

The Canada Safety Council has asked the Federal Minister of Justice to make changes in the Criminal Code of Canada to rectify what it believes are weaknesses in the present legislation regarding impaired driving.

B.J. Legge, President, D.D. McKay, Vice President and P.J. Farmer, Executive Director of the Canada Safety Council, who met with Justice Minister Otto Lang and representatives from the Justice Department recently, told him that, while the Council supported the .08 Law proclaimed in December 1969 (Criminal Code Sections 234, 235 and 236), the Council was concerned that the law had not been effective in preventing accidents caused by impaired driving. To rectify the weaknesses in the present law, the Canada Safety Council suggested that the relevant sections of the Criminal Code should be amended to include:

- (1) Roadside screening tests -
 - (a) on suspicion of drinking,
 - (b) after a driver has committed a driving violation,

- (c) after a driver is involved in a traffic accident,
- (d) at checkpoints.

Without such roadside screening tests, the Council feels that police officers do not have adequate tools to determine impairment.

- (2) Provision for suspended sentences for problem drinkers and driving while impaired, repeaters, coupled with mandatory referral to impaired driver clinics for counselling and treatment. At present the law does not provide for rehabilitation of the alcoholic or problem drinker charged with impaired driving. In many instances under the present legislation individuals with alcohol problems continue to drive after being convicted of impaired driving.
- (3) Chemical tests of blood and urine as well as breath should be required in cases where breath tests are negative. At present the enforcement agencies and courts have no method of determining the presence of drugs in cases of impaired driving, particularly when alcohol is absent.

The Canadian .08 Law proclaimed on December 1, 1969, resulted in a 59.3 percent increase in arrests for impaired driving in its first year of operation. There were 76,614 impaired driving cases in 1970, up nearly 30,000 from 1969. Another 4,083 drivers were charged after refusing to give a sample of breath.

Since Section 236 of the Criminal Code states it is an offence to drive if the driver's blood alcohol content exceeds .08 per cent the old argument about whether or not the driver was actually impaired is not a factor. This has resulted in a considerable saving of time not only on the part of the court but also the time of the arresting officer appearing in court as a witness. It also has resulted in a higher conviction rate.

However, the prime reason for this law was to prevent accidents caused by impaired driving. Unfortunately the evidence to date does not indicate that incidences of driving while intoxicated have been significantly reduced, nor has there been any appreciable reduction in accidents caused by impaired driving.

Tribute to one of Canada's great international marksmen



The Canadian Rifle Team – Bisley 1953
Winners of the Empire Match

(Top row, left to right) *Lt.-Col. S. Johnson, Lt.-Col. D.T. Burke, Major A.B. Coulter, Major C.A. Vickery, Major R.W. Hampton.*

(Bottom row, left to right) *S/Sgt. G.B. Kay, Capt. M.M. Morgan, Sgt. W. Kayne, Capt. W.J. Newell, Major A.M.T. Spittal and Sgt. C.C. Wilson.*

One of Canada's top sportsmen, Lieutenant-Colonel Desmond T. Burke – doctor, engineer, author and marksman – who probably contributed more than anyone else to his country's stature in international marksmanship, died at Oakville, Ontario, on April 11, at the age of 68.

Dr. Burke was elevated to the Canadian Forces Sports Hall of Fame in 1971 and, in 1972, he was the first rifleman elected to the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame.

He was only 19, in his final year at Ottawa's Lisgar Collegiate, when he won a place on the Canadian rifle team that has competed annually in Bisley, England, since 1871. He won a place on the team 22 times in all, though was able to accept the honour only 12 times. Desmond Burke became, at the age of 20, the youngest King's Prize winner, and was the only person to win the first and final stages of the King's in the same year.

His book, *A Practical Rifleman's Guide*, illustrated by his own precision drawings, is considered to be invaluable to the marksman. Dr. Burke was a Life Governor of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, which was established in 1868.

He spent eight years at Queen's Uni-

versity, Kingston, Ontario, in arts, engineering and medicine; won the Sir Sandford Fleming scholarship in engineering in 1926; and graduated with M.D., C.M. in 1932.

His medical practice was interrupted during the war by five years spent in England and on the European and Italian campaigns with the Canadian Army Medical Corps. On his return to Canada, he was appointed Chief Radiologist to Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, and Assistant Professor of Radiology, Toronto University. He retired recently as Chief Radiologist at Oakville Hospital.

His Bisley record includes the winning of: the King's Final Gold medal (1924); King's Runner Up (1927, 1928, 1929); King's Hundred (1924, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1953); King's Bronze First Stage (1924, 1928); Grand Aggregate Gold Cross (1928, 1932); Grand Aggregate Silver Cross (1931); Grand Aggregate (fourth, first, eighth, fourth, second, first, in consecutive years); Allcomers Aggregate (1931, 1932); Prince of Wales (1929); Clementi Smith (1926); Alexandra (1930); Daily Mail (1953); Southern Railway (1928); Secretary of State (1932); and Wantage (1929). In all he won 14 first and 11 second prizes.

Communal homes donated by Canadians in Vietnam

Two communal homes for the poor will be built in Pleiku with money donated by Canadian members of the International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS) in Vietnam.

In accepting the latest donation from Major Jeffrey Kelly of Bobcaygeon, Ontario, Bishop Paul L. Seitz, Bishop of Kontum, said that the centres would house Montagnard tribesmen of all ages within the diocese. Bishop Seitz is a French missionary who has been in Vietnam since 1936.

"The buildings will serve also as a tangible reminder of the Canadians' stay in Pleiku," the Bishop said, "and is another token of the close co-operation that exists between the mission and the Canadians garrisoned in Vietnam."

Major Kelly has been making private donations to the mission since 1968. He is currently at the ICCS headquarters in Saigon.

Heritage Canada launched

Heritage Canada, the first national trust for the preservation for Canada's historic and natural heritage, was inaugurated on April 2 when Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, announced the names of the founding Board of Governors and handed a \$12-million cheque to Chairman of the Board Hartland MacDougall.

Heritage Canada is now incorporated as a national charitable foundation with founding governors from across Canada.

Joining Mr. MacDougall of Toronto, on the Board of Governors are: Dr. Pierre Dansereau of Montreal, Vice-Chairman, Philip Oland of Saint John, New Brunswick; Mrs. Claude Bertrand of Montreal, Quebec; Pierre Berton and Frederic Rounthwaite of Toronto, Ontario; Etienne Gaboury of Winnipeg, Manitoba; Donald Harvie of Calgary, Alberta; and Dr. George Clutesi of Port Alberni, British Columbia. There are also two Federal Government members: the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister (Conservation) of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Museums of Canada. Mr. R.A.J. Phillips of Ottawa,

Secretary of State, has been appointed executive director.

Although Heritage Canada now has a \$12-million capital endowment from the Federal Government, only the interest from that sum can be used to carry out its program. Additional funds will be sought through individual memberships as well as gifts, bequests and grants in money or in property from individuals, corporations and foundations.

The founding Board of Governors is expected to announce details of a national plan to encourage different types of membership within a few months.

Before its first annual meeting and election of its Board of Governors, the Board will also study how to use its limited resources effectively to save heritage buildings and important scenic and natural areas. Emphasis will be placed on co-operation with provincial and municipal governments as well as local, voluntary associations.

Travelling clinics for the retarded

The Alvin Buckwold Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, has found travelling clinics to be an effective way of bringing specialized services to the mentally retarded.

Since 1967, a team from the Centre has regularly visited communities in northwestern Saskatchewan to examine and assess mentally-retarded children and adults referred by local physicians. This is a pioneer program which is only now being introduced in Ontario and in the United States.

From a small pilot project of monthly clinics in Prince Albert, the program has grown to include such communities as North Battleford, Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, La Ronge, Rosetown and Kerrobert, among others.

According to Dr. W.A. Zaleski, Director of the Centre, the travelling clinics have been enthusiastically received by local residents and have enabled the University to provide a needed service in communities outside Saskatoon. The clinics have been valuable in co-ordinating available local resources, stimulating community involvement, and occasionally initiating programs not previously available.

The travelling team consists of two physicians, two psychologists, a social worker and a laboratory technician. Such resource people as educa-

tional psychologists, mental retardation community workers, public health nurses and teachers of retarded children are invited to participate. Local branches of the Saskatchewan Association for the Mentally Retarded and other volunteers provide supporting services.

Dr. Zaleski commented that one team is no longer sufficient to serve the northern settled area of the province and he hoped that funds could be made available to provide a second team.

The team assesses the mental and physical condition of referred patients and tries to gain insight into the family reactions and difficulties encountered in accepting and managing a retarded child. Through this service, the team tries to ensure the best present and

future functioning of each child or adult. This involves counselling for parents, advice in general management to achieve good social adjustment and stability, and guidance on behaviour problems and specific handicaps. The best educational approaches are discussed with teachers, as well as readiness for and desirability of vocational training. Home-training programs for pre-schoolers are established when necessary. Children and their mothers are checked for biochemical abnormalities which may be linked with mental retardation.

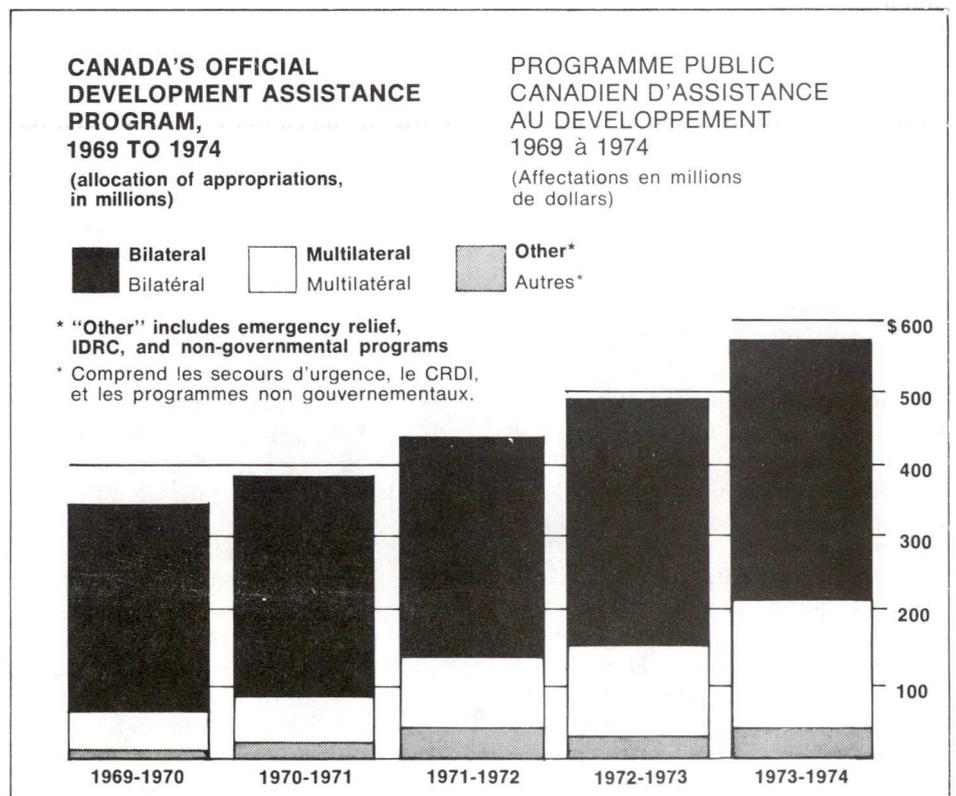
Following each clinic, the team confers with the local resource people and plans are made for treatment, training, further counselling if required, and general management of each case.

International development assistance grows yearly

The April issue of *Contact*, a publication of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), reports that Canada's official international assistance budget will exceed half a million dollars for the first time in the coming year.

Estimates for 1973-74 indicate that official development assistance will

total \$565 million, up by 15 per cent from last year's \$491 million. Of the \$565 million, \$356 million has been allocated for bilateral assistance, \$173 million for multilateral assistance and \$36 million for assistance to non-governmental agencies and other programs sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency.



National Gallery says farewell to Fontainebleau exhibition

Fontainebleau, an exhibition of 221 works, including paintings, engravings, drawings, sculptures, decorative arts and tapestries of art in France from 1528 to 1610, shown at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, from March 2 closed on April 15. Ottawa was the only place other than Paris where the exhibition was seen.

The art of Fontainebleau is the art of the court of France which had its centre at the château of Fontainebleau from the time Francis I, King of France, 1515-1547, returned from his disastrous campaign in Italy in 1528 until the death of Henry IV in 1610. It started then with the French king who supported Jacques Cartier's explorations of Canada, beginning in 1534, and ended with the king who backed Champlain's expeditions, including the founding of Quebec in 1608.

Much of the life of the court was reflected in the exhibition. There were, for example, several pieces of parade armour, which probably belonged to Francis I's successor and son, Henry II, King of France, 1547-1559, and one iron shield, inlaid with silver and gold, that certainly belonged to this king. Figures in relief of this shield, which was lent to the exhibition by the Louvre, fought the battles of ancient Rome but suggested the alliance of France and Turkey against the Holy Roman Empire.

The Museum of Rouen sent a large tapestry that Henry II commissioned

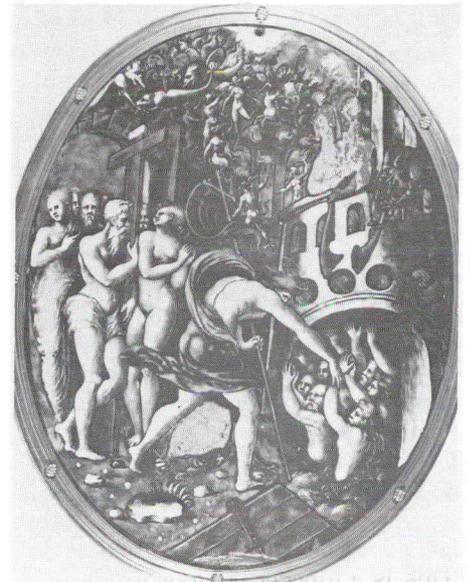
as part of a set for Anet, the château of his mistress Diane de Poitiers – a château that could be seen in a drawing lent by the British Museum. In this supposedly mythological tapestry the goddess Diana beseeches her father for the gift of chastity, but the staid figure of Diana in sixteenth-century dress is clearly Diane de Poitiers.

Catherine de Medici must have felt Fontainebleau not to be completely foreign when she arrived in France from Florence after her marriage in 1533. Her father-in-law had imported many artists from Italy, including the most famous of all Leonardi da Vinci who nevertheless did not directly influence the art of Fontainebleau. In the exhibition there was a small painting by Rosso (1494-1540) lent by the Louvre, that was painted in Italy before Rosso went to Fontainebleau (1530), where he created the combinations of paintings and stucco that distinguish the decorations of the château. His fellow-Italian, collaborator and successor, Primaticcio (1504-1570) was represented in the exhibition only by works produced in France, but there was a figure of Peace lent by a New York private collector drawn by Nicolo dell'Abate before he left Bologna for France in 1552.

The exhibition was arranged as the result of a cultural agreement between France and Canada. The showing in Paris at the Grand Palais, closed on January 15.



1.



2.



3.

1. *The History of Coriolanus: Preparations for Combat.*
Anonymous.
Before 1606.
Wool, silk and gold thread.

2. *The Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem and the Descent into Limbo.*
Leonard Limosin.
Circa 1505-1575/77.
Enamelled copper.

3. *The Legend of Diana for Anet: Diana Imploring Jupiter for the Gift of Chastity.*
Anonymous.
Wool and silk.

Student Young Company, spring tour

The National Arts Centre's Student Young Company is currently touring Ottawa high schools with *The Land Before Time*, a collection of Eskimo legends concerning creation, adapted by M. Charles Cohen. The production, directed by Dennis Hayes, began on April 24 and will end on May 4.

The Company, which was formed three years ago, is a co-operative venture by the National Arts Centre Theatre Department and the Ottawa-Carleton Boards of Education. Students who are interested are recommended by theatre-arts teachers to audition for Mr. Hayes, director, of the Student Young Company, and those who are chosen to form the company can become completely involved in the preparation and production of the play so long as their scholastic standards are maintained.

The Spring '73 company, chosen from 40 applicants, consists of eight actors, five costumiers and a production staff of six. Under the guidance of Dennis Hayes, and with help from Theatre Department personnel, the company rehearses, creates costumes and sets and does all the technical work required for a touring show. During the March break, the company worked full time at the Arts Centre — as it did during the week before its tour. Otherwise, rehearsals and production work are carried on after school and on weekends.

Boost for bilingualism in the national capital region

Secretary of State James Hugh Faulkner recently announced to the House of Commons that he had reached agreement with Tom Wells, the Minister of Education for Ontario, on the provision of supplementary funds to Ontario school boards in the national capital region for a pilot

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2. An index appears quarterly.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

project on the increased teaching of French as a second language.

"These additional funds are to be made available in the context of an experimental project. In the first year, approximately \$2 million is to be provided through the Ontario Ministry of Education from the bilingualism programs budget administered by my department," Mr. Faulkner stated. The cost of research in the experiment as well as its evaluation, will be borne by the Ontario government.

The Minister said that a decision on the exact amounts of money involved in the program would be made after proposals had been received from the four boards concerned on the Ontario side of the national capital region. He expected that the agreement would be implemented at the beginning of the next school year.

"I would like to emphasize how pleased I am personally that we have been able to reach agreement on this new arrangement, which we expect will go along way toward strengthening bilingualism in the national capital region. This form of co-operation, in a carefully evaluated experimental program, could, we think, lead to important new advances in this field. We also expect it will provide substantial new data on techniques of second-language teaching which will be of value across the country. I am also very gratified at the initiative which has been taken by the school boards concerned and I believe they should be complimented on their foresight and interest in a problem which is of concern to all Canadians," concluded Mr. Faulkner.

Spadina extension for Toronto subway

The Toronto subway transit system is to be extended in the central and western parts of the city, following a route that would have been taken by the Spadina Expressway — a paved motorway, cancelled two years ago by the Ontario Government as being inimical to the development of the metropolitan area.

The route chosen by the Metro Toronto Council will extend from the existing St. George Station on the Bloor Street line northwards intersecting Dupont and Davenport Streets, St. Clair Avenue West, Eglinton and

Lawrence Avenues and the Yorkdale Shopping Centre. The line will terminate at Wilson Heights Boulevard just north of Highway 401.

The estimated construction cost is \$155 million; the Ontario government will pay 75 per cent of the total. The subway will carry about 50,000 passengers an hour.

Stanley Cup record and World Hockey Association semi-finals,

National Hockey League

Semi-finals, Series E

April 14, Philadelphia 5, Montreal 4
 April 17, Montreal 4, Philadelphia 3
 April 19, Montreal 2, Philadelphia 1
 April 22, Montreal 4, Philadelphia 1
 April 24, Montreal 5, Philadelphia 3

Montreal wins best of seven four games to one.

Series F

April 12, New York 4, Chicago 1
 April 15, Chicago 5, New York 4
 April 17, Chicago 2, New York 1
 April 19, Chicago 3, New York 1
 April 24, Chicago 4, New York 1

Chicago wins best of seven four games to one.

World Hockey Association

Semi-finals

East

April 18, New England 3, Cleveland 2
 April 19, New England 3, Cleveland 2
 April 21, New England 5, Cleveland 4
 April 22, Cleveland 5, New England 2
 April 26, New England 3, Cleveland 1

New England wins best of seven four games to one.

Semi-finals

West

April 20, Winnipeg 5, Houston 1
 April 22, Winnipeg 2, Houston 0
 April 24, Winnipeg 4, Houston 2
 April 26, Winnipeg 3, Houston 0

Winnipeg wins best of seven four games to none.