

C18
66-176
DOCS e1

LATEST ISSUE
DERNIER
NUMÉRO

Canada Weekly

Volume 4, No. 48

December 1, 1976



Ottawa, Canada.

- Parti Québécois new government in province of Quebec, 1
- Kidney-disease machine, 2
- Student influence aspect in learning process, 2
- Commonwealth NGOs — dynamic session at Dalhousie University, 3
- Commonwealth Secretary-General in Ottawa, 4
- Canada/U.S. northern highway, 4
- Health care by satellite, 4
- News of the arts — museums, literary prize, theatre, 5
- News briefs, 6

Parti Québécois new government in province of Quebec

Voters in the province of Quebec's general election chose a new government on November 15, when the Parti Québécois, led by 54-year-old René Lévesque, defeated Premier Robert Bourassa's Liberal party 69 seats to 28. Eleven members of the Union Nationale were also elected, as were one Creditiste and one member of the Parti National Populaire. Some recounts are taking place.

Mr. Bourassa and 13 of his Cabinet colleagues were defeated.

In the general election of 1973, the Liberals took 102 seats, PQ six, Creditistes two, Union Nationale none.

Mr. Bourassa called the election two years early, seeking a mandate to negotiate constitutional issues and to resolve labour issues. He promised to aid business, give protection to consumers and bring about municipal tax reform. He wanted more control in the areas of immigration, communications and culture.

Mr. Lévesque, who resigned from the Quebec provincial Liberal party in

1967 to form and lead the Parti Québécois, won his seat for the first time in three attempts. Referring to the first article of the program of the Parti Québécois, which calls for political sovereignty for Quebec, he said in his victory speech that Quebec would become an independent country only when an "adult society has approved it by a democratic and clear majority in a referendum".

The new premier has placed priority on putting the province's financial and administrative situation on a sound basis and indicated he would attend a forthcoming constitutional federal-provincial conference of first ministers.

Prime Minister's statement

Following the election, Prime Minister Trudeau made the following statement: "In a democratic election, Quebec voters have granted the Parti Québécois enough seats to form the next provincial government. Out of respect for our democratic process, we must

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
AFFAIRES EXTERIEURES
OTTAWA
DEC 7 1976
BIBLIOTHEQUE

Quebec's new premier René Lévesque, son of a lawyer, was born in the town of New Carlisle, Bonaventure, Quebec in 1922. He attended law school at the University of Laval. From the age of 14 he worked during holidays as an announcer at several radio stations. He interrupted his law studies in 1943, during the Second World War, to become a war correspondent in the campaigns in France, Germany and Austria. In 1946 he worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation International Service and was a war correspondent in Korea in 1952. From 1952 to 1956 he was chief of CBC's French network news services and afterwards was a freelance radio and television commentator. While he was with the CBC he covered such events as the coronation of Queen Elizabeth, sessions of the United Nations General Assembly,



René Lévesque

the United States elections and the crisis in Algeria in the 1950s. René Lévesque was first elected as a Liberal member of the Quebec provincial government in 1960 for the riding of Montreal-Laurier and was named Minister of Public Works and Hydraulic Resources. In 1961 he was appointed Minister of Natural Resources. He was instrumental in nationalizing Quebec's hydroelectric power. For a short while he was also the Minister of Family and Social Welfare.

Mr. Lévesque resigned from the Liberal Party in 1967 to form the Sovereignty Movement, which became the Parti Québécois the following year. He was elected president. The party won seven seats in the election of 1970 and six in the election of 1973. Mr. Lévesque was elected for Taillon County in 1976 by more than a 22,000 majority.

He is married, with three children.

recognize the Parti Québécois' victory.

"If we are to take at face value the assurances of the Parti Québécois leader reiterated during the campaign, we must conclude that the people of Quebec did not vote on constitutional, but on economic and administrative issues, and that Mr. Lévesque and his party have been granted a mandate to form a provincial government, not to separate that province from the rest of Canada.

"I can only assume that Quebec's new government intends to follow both the letter and the spirit of the Canadian Constitution. Under such conditions Mr. Lévesque and his Cabinet will have my co-operation and that of my colleagues. In keeping with its constitutional responsibilities, the Federal Government will continue to serve the best interests of the people of Quebec, even as it serves those of the other provinces.

"I am confident that Quebecers will continue to reject separatism because they still believe their destiny is linked with an indivisible Canada."

Kidney-disease machine

The Kidney Foundation of Canada's recently-donated single-needle machine to the hemodialysis unit of Quebec's University of Sherbrooke's teaching hospital will greatly improve the artificial kidney equipment by making it possible for each patient treatment to consist of a single injection instead of two. This will have the advantage, among others, of preserving the blood vessels of patients who receive injections.

The Foundation's primary aims are to support and promote research on the prevention and cure of kidney diseases. In 1975, some \$84,556 was put at the disposal of researchers.

The Foundation also encourages education of the public concerning kidney diseases. Last year, \$36,000 was devoted to this in Canada and thousands of persons were given information on possible prevention of this type of disease.

In the Eastern Townships, Quebec, the Foundation sponsored a disease-detection program in the elementary schools; 11,500 children were examined.

Student influence aspect in learning process

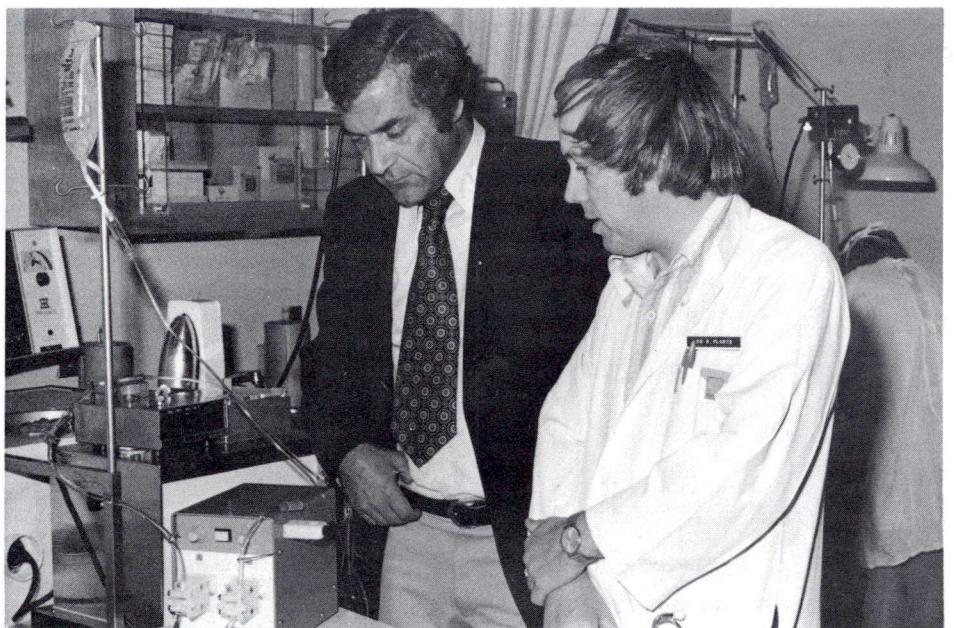
The academic achievement of students is greatly influenced by the performance and abilities of their fellow students in the classroom. This influence, called the "peer group effect", can be altered by changes in the composition of students in the class and thus it constitutes an important tool for educational policy-makers attempting to improve the efficiency of the school system. This is the principal conclusion reached by Vernon Henderson, Peter Mieszkowski and Yvon Sauvageau in a study released last month under the auspices of the Economic Council of Canada, *Peer Group Effects and Educational Production Functions*, (Printing and Publishing Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa, Cat. No. EC22-45/1976; price: Canada, \$3; other countries, \$3.60.

Data on students moving from kindergarten to Grade 3 in Montreal's Catholic French-language schools showed that at these levels, family background and pre-school IQ have a greater impact on academic performance than changes in the mixture of the peer group. However, only the latter can be regulated by educational policy-makers to conform with achievement aims.

The authors give two explanations of the effects of the peer group. One is that the learning process is a process of interaction between students, with weaker students learning from stronger students in the same class. Hence, more capable students tend to benefit from a homogeneous class while weaker students do not. Second, teachers adapt the calibre of their teaching to the average quality of their classes, setting higher standards for classes with higher average student capability.

Students of similar ability and performance have traditionally tended to be placed in the same class. However, this study raises strong doubts about some of the beliefs underlying this procedure. According to the authors, a more heterogeneous class composition, mixing weaker with stronger students, would improve peer group effects and increase general achievement. "While the stronger students will be adversely affected by the mixing, the weaker students will gain more in terms of absolute achievement than stronger students lose."

The study reflects the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the Economic Council of Canada.



The chairman of the Kidney Foundation (Eastern Townships section), Luc Fouquette, and Dr Gérard Plante, director of the Nephrology Service of

the University of Sherbrooke's teaching hospital, discuss the new single-needle machine donated to the hemodialysis unit by the Foundation.

Commonwealth NGOs – dynamic session at Dalhousie University

In a five-day meeting, hosted by Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia in late October 1976, 66 representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in 18 countries came to grips with the problem of the role of NGOs in the official Commonwealth association. They concluded their deliberations with the recommendation that Commonwealth heads of Government, when they meet in London, next June, take positive steps to encourage NGO activity.

The participants heard and discussed 12 working papers ranging from the subject of Commonwealth relations to the type of NGO activity that exists in or is acceptable in the “unofficial” Commonwealth.

Several interesting facts emerged in the discussions. There are for example, at least 112 Commonwealth organizations and sources of information listed in one publication of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Some estimates put the number of Commonwealth-oriented NGOs as high as 200. They range from professional associations of architects or lawyers to social service organizations like Canadian University Students Overseas, from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to the Royal Commonwealth Society. The Conference suggested that most NGOs could offer expertise, efficiency and flexibility of approach to some of the problems that face members of the Commonwealth association. They could provide for governments its grass-root contacts.

Government recognition called for

The Conference called upon Commonwealth governments to positively recognize the contribution that NGOs can make, to take steps to stimulate and sustain the growth of NGOs and where there is an identified need, to strengthen co-operation among NGOs in relevant fields of activity. It was also suggested that use be made of the already existing machinery of the Commonwealth, particularly the Commonwealth Foundation, to support the activities of NGOs, especially in social and cultural fields.

Participants at the Dalhousie Con-

At a reception during the Dalhousie Conference, some of the participants pose for this picture. (Left to right): A.S. Talalla, High Commissioner for Malaysia; G. Tout, President, Halifax Branch, Royal Commonwealth Society; F. Neal, Chairman, Student Commonwealth Conference Committee, Ottawa Branch, RCS; Lieut-Cdr. C.T. Gunning, President, Ottawa Branch, RCS; R.S. Leavitt, National Vice-Chairman, RCS, Canada; M. Ramcharan, High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. H.



ference came from a wide variety of Commonwealth institutions. They were joined by observers and participants from the Canadian Government. Professor Arnold Smith, first Commonwealth Secretary-General and now Lester B. Pearson Professor of International Affairs at Ottawa's Carleton University, gave the Conference the benefit of his unparalleled Commonwealth experience.

Information program essential

One item that exercised everyone was the problem of bringing the work, not only of NGOs, but of the whole Commonwealth association to the attention of the public. The work of the Commonwealth has always been “low-keyed” and practically oriented and therefore considered less than glamorous. Some believe the lack of notoriety has enabled the Commonwealth to get on with its work without undue political involvement. All agreed, however, the Commonwealth information program deserved a higher priority.

Almost all participants at the Conference agreed that the terms of reference and income of the Commonwealth

Tambiah, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka; S.S. Ramphal, Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat; G.A. Norman, National Chairman-elect, RCS, Canada; Prof. Arnold Smith, Past Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat; D. Martyn, Chairman, Toronto Branch, RCS; W. Chakulya, High Commissioner for Zambia; A. Hill, High Commissioner for Jamaica; Dr. R. Moore, High Commissioner for Guyana; B. Graves, National Chairman, RCS, Canada.

Foundation should be broadened and increased. The Commonwealth Foundation was established in 1966 to promote and strengthen links between the professions, their individual members and their societies throughout the Commonwealth. By the end of 1975 the Foundation had dispersed about £2.8 million and was responsible for the establishment of ten professional centres in developing countries.

Declaration of support

The Conference recommended that heads of Government issue a declaration giving encouragement and continued support to the work of NGOs and called upon the Secretary-General to promote collaboration with NGOs in functional activities related to the work of the Secretariat, specially in areas of economic and social development.

It was agreed that recognition should be given to the contributions that are, and can be made by NGOs and that the Secretariat encourage their activities, using their services on a continuing, practical basis. Hope was expressed that the Commonwealth Secretary-General would support another meeting

of NGOs in 1978 so that "further impetus can be given to the important preliminary deliberations and the recommendations made at Dalhousie".

One of the most interesting and controversial recommendations to come out of the meeting was that some 2 to 3 per cent of official development assistance resources be directed through multilateral Commonwealth channels.

The highlight of the Conference was a speech by Commonwealth Secretary-General Ramphal at a dinner given by Dalhousie University President Senator Henry Hicks on October 29. Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal drew the attention of the Conference participants to the role of the Commonwealth in redressing the international balance of economic power and in helping to find a solution, in whatever way it could, to the current situation in Southern Africa.

Canada/U.S. northern highway

Canadian and United States officials have successfully concluded negotiations for an agreement for a highway rebuilding and paving project in northern British Columbia and the Yukon.

In making the announcement on November 10, Judd Buchanan, Minister of Public Works, said the formal exchange of diplomatic notes between Canada and the U.S. would take place very shortly.

This program will provide an improved and safer road from Haines, Alaska, the northern terminus of the Alaska Ferry System, to the Yukon-Alaska border, which will be accessible to U.S., as well as to Canadian traffic. The total highway distance involved is 322 miles with 52 miles of the Haines Road in British Columbia and 65 miles in the

Yukon, plus 205 miles of the Alaska Highway between Haines Junction and the Alaska-Yukon border.

Terms of agreement

The terms of the agreement between Canada and the U.S. call for the United States to provide funds for the reconstruction and paving: British Columbia, as its contribution, will provide the additional right-of-way required and the use of natural construction materials within its boundaries. The Department of Public Works will manage the project and will set up and administer the committees required to define construction schedules and procedures. The United States Federal Highway Administration will review the program for the United States.

Before any construction begins, an environmental impact study will be carried out and appropriate follow-up public meetings will be held.

Commonwealth Secretary-General in Ottawa

Commonwealth Secretary-General Ramphal was in Ottawa November 3 to 6. Mr. Ramphal, who was guest speaker at a dinner concluding the Dalhousie Conference in Halifax, met with Prime Minister Trudeau, Allan J. MacEachen, Government House Leader, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, and the Speaker of the House, J. Jerome. He also met with officials from the Department of External Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency and attended the Third Canadian Regional

Parliamentary Seminar. He addressed the Royal Commonwealth Society and attended a reception given by the Governor General.

Secretary-General Ramphal's visit was timely as the Commonwealth Secretariat has recently been granted observer status at the United Nations and the Secretary-General has also undertaken to provide assistance to the leaders of all Zimbabwe nationalist delegations invited to the Geneva Conference on Rhodesia. Mr. Ramphal's presence in Ottawa gave represent-

atives of the Government of Canada an opportunity to discuss the existing situation in Southern Africa, particularly since Mr. Ramphal has recently returned from a visit to several African countries. Among other major topics of discussion were arrangements for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting scheduled to take place in London, England next June.

Health care by satellite

Canada's first intensive experiment of improved medical care by satellite for people living in remote regions began in London, Ontario, November 4.

The five-month "telemedicine" test, linking London's University Hospital with Moose Factory General Hospital on James Bay and a remote northern nursing station at Kasechewan, Ontario, uses Canada's experimental *Hermes* communications technology satellite (CTS). The \$600,000-experiment is co-sponsored by the federal Department of Communications, the Department of National Health and Welfare and the University of Western Ontario.

Even as equipment was still being installed, *Hermes* proved its worth on two separate occasions, October 19 and 20: In the first, a three-station



The Prime Minister (left) meets Secretary-General S.S. Ramphal in Ottawa.

News of the arts

Pottery and bronze from Thailand

The Fine Arts Department of the Royal Thai Government and the National Museum of Bangkok have made possible the acquisition by the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, of several examples of painted pottery and bronze ornaments from northeastern Thailand.

The ceramics and bronzes, which are now on exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum, are representative of the prehistoric Ban Chiang culture which has been discovered in recent years in northeastern Thailand.

Negotiations for the purchase of these items were carried out on behalf of the Royal Ontario Museum through the Canadian embassy in Thailand. This is the first acquisition of archaeological material by the Royal Ontario Museum in accordance with its policy to support the UNESCO Convention regarding the export and import of cultural property.

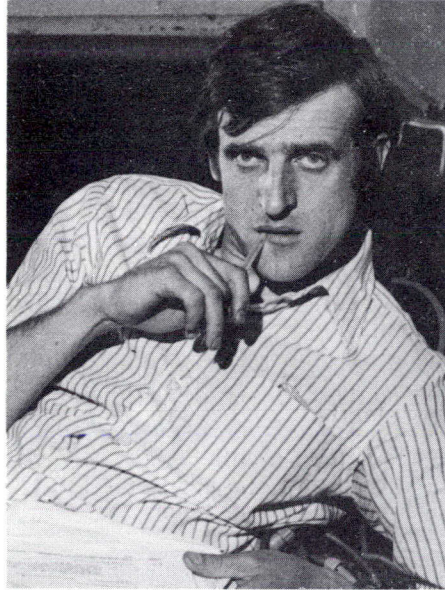
Canada/Australia literary prize

The Department of External Affairs, the Canada Council and the Australia Council announced on November 10 that Australian playwright John Romeril had won the first Canada/Australia Literary Prize.

The prize, valued at \$2,500 (Cdn.) is intended to help make better known in Australia and Canada the work of writers of the other country, and has been established following the success of the Canada/Belgium Literary Prize, first awarded in 1971 for French-language authors. The Canada/Australia award honours English-language authors.

Each year an Australian or a Canadian writer will be chosen by a panel of judges from the other country. This year the Australia Council submitted works by six young authors to a Canadian jury. Next year the procedure will be reversed. The prize is not restricted to any particular category of writing (novelists, poets and playwrights are equally eligible) and is awarded for a writer's total output rather than for a single work.

John Romeril has published three plays, *Chicago, Chicago, I Don't Know Who To Feel Sorry For* and *The Floating World*. Since 1970 he has been



The Canada/Australia Literary Prize was awarded to John Romeril in Melbourne by Canadian High Commissioner in Australia J.J. McCardle, following a performance of The Dudders, by Romeril and John Timlin at the Pram Factory Theatre on November 13. Thirty-four-year-old Romeril (above) is one of Australia's most successful playwrights.

closely associated with the Australian Performing Group and many of his individual works and collective scripts have been presented by this company at The Pram Factory Theatre in Melbourne. The Australian Performing Group grew to a professional theatre from a workshop of young actors, writers and filmmakers who gravitated together at the Le Mama theatre in Melbourne in the late Sixties.

Canadian participation is financed by the Department of External Affairs as part of its program of cultural relations with foreign countries. The award is administered for the Department by the Canada Council which also selects the jury.

Log opera house

The tiny town of Canmore, 65 miles west of Calgary, Alberta boasts of possessing at one time what was probably the only log opera house in the world.

Built back in 1896, because the Canmore band needed a place to practise,

it measured 40 feet by 20 feet, with a 16-foot stage.

Internationally-known artists played there at one time or another — including Madame Melba, Jack Benny, and Beatrice Lillie. The British National Opera staged *The Bohemian Girl* and the International Welsh Choir sang there.

The building, converted to a movie house in 1913, was found particularly well adapted to sound pictures when they arrived in the mid-Twenties, because the pine logs provided almost perfect acoustics. Even now, it is reported that "a dropped pin can be heard all over the building".

In 1966, the Canmore Mines donated the building to Calgary's Heritage Park, where it has become a year-round centre for old-style entertainment.

It was carefully dismantled log by log in Canmore, then transported and erected at Heritage Park, a rebuilt pioneer prairie settlement, covering 60 acres of land bordering on Glenmore Dam in southwest Calgary.

New National Gallery for Canada

One of the most coveted architectural awards ever given by the Federal Government will go to the winner of a design competition for the new National Gallery of Canada to be built on a 12.5-acre site on Wellington Street, west of Parliament Hill, overlooking the Ottawa River.

The submissions of the ten competing teams are due on February 15, 1977, and the winner is to be announced on March 30. Of the ten teams, six are from Toronto, and each will be eligible for a \$35,000-honorarium, to defray expenses, on presentation of the official entry.

Since 1960, the Gallery has been housed in a government office building just off Confederation Square, and previously its home for 70 years was a museum building in south central Ottawa, which now houses the Museum of Man and the Museum of Natural History. Architectural guidelines for the new gallery envisage a fine arts museum which gives expression to "the vitality of the Canadian imagination", and where "a sense of our life and our history" would be conveyed in artistic works.

Health care by satellite

(Continued from P. 4)

satellite conference call was used to forestall an unnecessarily early evacuation of a seriously ill baby. The next day, *Hermes* provided the only means of communication available to expedite removal of a pregnant woman from Kasechewan.

The powerful "Hermes"

The Ottawa-built *Hermes*, said to be the world's most powerful communications satellite, was launched January 17 from Cape Canaveral, Florida. (*Hermes* is the advanced technology forerunner of a new type of satellite, oriented towards provision of improved broadcast distribution and able to provide inexpensive new communications services in thinly-populated areas in fields like tele-education, tele-health, community work and government administration and services. The system uses a new satellite frequency band, with about 30 times more power than present communications satellites, and new, portable earth stations with antennas as small as a metre in diameter.)

In the London/Moose Factory/Kasechewan experiment, *Hermes* will enable satellite-aided clinical examinations, decision-making and diagnosis. Electro-cardiograms, X-rays, ultrasonic imagery and other forms of medical data will be transmitted, to enable the base hospital doctor to obtain the advice of specialists in London, or allow the northern nurse to practise a level of health care previously impossible or inappropriate.

The purpose of the experiment is to enable health services planners to determine the extent to which high-quality communications links such as

this one can best be put to work to upgrade health care in a vast region where the average distance to the nearest hospital — and often the nearest doctor as well — is about 400 miles. When adverse weather prevents evacuation flights of emergency cases, patients can die. It is believed satellites like *Hermes* can reduce this toll by substituting communications for transportation in crisis situations like these.

Other experiments will follow, planned by the Government of Ontario, Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Rural Health Society of Victoria, British Columbia. A total of 18

of 26 planned *Hermes* applications experiments are now either complete or under way, with the remainder scheduled to commence early in 1977.

Canada/U.S. project

The *Hermes* program is a joint Canada-U.S. venture, in which the Department of Communications was responsible for design and construction of the \$60-million spacecraft and the United States, through NASA, provided a high-powered transmitting tube, launch and pre-launch test support. The U.S., which has 13 experiment "users" in similar applications, shares equally use of the satellite on alternate days.

News briefs

■ The Bank of Canada bank rate was reduced to 9 per cent from 9.5 per cent November 22. Bank of Canada Governor Gerald Bouey said November 19 the reduction was justified because of progress in reducing inflation and in moderating the rate of increase in the money supply. The rate charged by the central bank for infrequent loans to the commercial banks generally influences other interest rates, and should lead to lower rates for mortgages and consumer loans.

■ Len Marchand, minister responsible for small business has signed an \$80-million contract in Warsaw for the sale of three paper-making machines to Poland, announced the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce recently. A department spokesman said the contract, which will create an estimated 800 man-years of work in Canada, is the largest single sale of equipment by a Canadian firm to Eastern Europe. Eight Canadian firms have signed contracts for work on the project valued at \$170 million.

■ The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation will increase its television coverage of international soccer next year. Major matches will be carried on 14 Saturday afternoons from April 30 to August 27.

■ Collectively-bargained settlements produced an average annual increase in base wage rates over the life of the contract of 9.7 per cent in the third quarter, the lowest quarterly rate of increase since the end of 1972, the

federal Labour Department reports. The third quarter rate of increase was about half the 18.7 percent peak recorded during the second quarter of 1975 before the rate began to fall. It has shown a steady decline since then, reaching 11.2 per cent in the second quarter of this year.

■ CBUFT-Vancouver, the new French-language television station was officially inaugurated November 12 with a TV special of a concert by the Vancouver Symphony taped in the Centennial Theatre for the Radio-Canada Concert Populaire series. Although the initial proposal for a French-language station raised some negative comments from the largely English-speaking public of Vancouver, the broadcasts have been received enthusiastically in the city, and letters have come from the neighbouring U.S. state of Washington inquiring about how they can get the French service on one of their cable channels.

■ An eighteenth-century portrait of John Graves Simco, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada from 1791 to 1806, was sold recently at auction to an anonymous buyer for \$14,850 at Christie's in London. The painting, believed to be the work of the Anglo-German painter Johann Zoffany, founder member of Britain's Royal Academy, will be returned to Canada.

■ Newfoundland is planning to impose a tax on companies which fail to explore and develop their long-term mineral concessions, provincial Mines and Energy Minister Brian Peckford says.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

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

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.