

# Canada Weekly

Volume 2, No. 19

May 8, 1974

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Ottawa, Canada.

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## United Nations Conference on Human Settlements – plans under way

*In announcing the formal commencement of planning for the United Nations Conference/Exposition on Human Settlements to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia from May 31 to June 11, 1976, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, described some of the background of the meeting and stated Canada's intention of being an effective host "to this critically important international conference" as well as playing "a leading role as a participant".*

*Passages from Mr. Sharp's statement follow:*

\* \* \* \*

The urgency and need to examine human-settlements problems derives in the first instance from a global trend of crisis proportions towards urbanization, taking place in both developed and developing countries. Thus the world population has been forecast to reach a total of 6.5 billion within the next three decades. Urban settlements are growing twice as fast as the population. The big cities of over half a million are growing twice as fast again. By the year 2000, for the first time in history, more people will be urban than rural. United Nations forecasts suggest that in developing countries the number living in urban settlements will grow threefold to 1.4 billion by the year 2000. Major movements of populations of such dimensions, already under way, are overtaxing the ability of governments to provide housing, public services and facilities. They are creating many serious social, economic and human problems which most governments at this point in time are not equipped to overcome.

At the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in June 1972, it became apparent that a global international initiative was needed to help countries meet the mounting human-settlements problems and to focus public attention thereon. The original proposal for the conference/exposition made in Stockholm by Victor Goldbloom, Quebec Minister for Municipal Affairs and the Environment, was enthusiastically endorsed by the international community. The resultant Stockholm recommendations relating to human settlements and in particular to the conference/exposition have since received first priority within the con-

text of the United Nations environment program. After deciding at its twenty-seventh session to hold the conference and accepting Canada's offer to host it, the United Nations General Assembly last December adopted in plenary without opposition a resolution detailing the plans for the conference, its venue, and making available resources from the regular budget to proceed with the preparatory process. A preparatory committee of up to 58 member states has also been established to refine the conference agenda and provide advice on complex arrangements and consultations at the regional and international level. International organizations within and outside the United Nations family have been invited to participate in the preparations so as to be able to share in the results of the conference/exposition and action following thereon.

### Conference themes

The broad themes of the conference were developed last May at a United Nations seminar, chaired by Barbara Ward, in Vancouver and attended by experts from 22 countries. The themes which have been endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly include:

- (1) broad areas of human needs in the environment of human settlements;
- (2) the role of settlements in national development;
- (3) the structure and quality of the environment of human settlements;
- (4) special problems in human settlements;
- (5) managing human settlements;
- (6) international co-operation.

The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Program at its



second session in Nairobi later this month will be asked to approve resources for the exposition component, which is designed to give the conference a solution-oriented character.

#### Canada the host

Canada's responsibility as the host nation covers the organization and administration of all aspects of the event over and above those that would have been the responsibility of the United Nations if the event had been held at the United Nations headquarters. The Government of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver are also fully involved in the hosting function, and a host committee with representation from the three levels of government which meets periodically in Vancouver, and has formed a variety of sub-committees to advise on various aspects of the hosting of the conference/exposition.

To carry out the host responsibilities of the Government of Canada, I have established a host secretariat within the Department of External Affairs. Executive responsibility for the national hosting arrangements will rest with this secretariat, which will have a management organization covering installations, communications, conference services, design development and public affairs. Host secretariat liaison officers will be placed in the United Nations secretariat in New York and in Vancouver.

I am very pleased by the active involvement of the Government of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver with the Government of Canada in the hosting function and I am confident that the three levels of government will succeed in creating a meaningful and memorable venue in Vancouver for what will be one of the most important international conferences ever held in Canada.

#### Candu nuclear power plant — agreement with Argentina

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a financing agreement to lend \$129.5 million to the Government of Argentina to support the sale by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), to Comision Nacional de Energia Atomica (CNEA), of equipment and services for a 600-MW Candu

nuclear power plant. The sale was won in competition with German and United States bidders.

The Argentine project is situated on the Tercero River near Cordoba, which is about 420 miles northwest of Buenos Aires.

The EDC loan, which will finance 90 per cent of the cost of Canadian equipment and services for the project, will be repaid in 30 semi-annual instalments commencing six months after commissioning of the plant, which is scheduled for 1979.

#### German NATO troops train in Canada

More than 200 military support staff from the Federal Republic of Germany arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba, at the end of March to organize training for German armoured and artillery units at Canadian Forces Base Shilo in that province.

For the next two weeks, tanks, guns and equipment were transported by rail to Shilo from Quebec City to support the training program. The equipment arrived in Canada by ship from Germany in late March and was moved by some 300 rail cars.

The training runs from May to October each year under terms of a ten-year agreement, whereby 16 battalion-sized groups will train for three-week periods, adding up to more than 5,000 men a year.

The program is financed completely by the Federal Republic of Germany, including costs for Canadian Forces personnel supporting the training. Over 80 civilian jobs have been created, including kitchen help, typists, and other support staff. Also more than \$3 million is being spent on construction to build hangars, prepare parking areas and renovate offices, quarters, and kitchens.

A German staff of 40, who will remain permanently at Shilo to provide continuity and update training schedules, includes administrative and support personnel and medical staff to operate an eight-bed ward at the base hospital.

German equipment includes armoured vehicles and guns as well as over 100 wheeled vehicles.

Training will begin with the arrival of troops May 9 and 11. The majority are recent recruits experiencing their first practical range training.

#### Federal funds for Saskatchewan iron and steel industry

Prime Minister Trudeau recently announced major support by the Federal Government for an integrated iron and steel complex in Saskatchewan.

The Prime Minister and Saskatchewan Premier Allan Blakeney have signed an agreement in principle for a program expected to result in an investment of about \$120 million. The Federal Government has pledged up to \$35 million in direct assistance while Saskatchewan's commitment is for up to \$10 million in direct assistance.

The Federal Government may also consider loans and loan guarantees as required. Saskatchewan will make available up to \$50 million in loans and guarantees as required.

"This five-year iron and steel industrial program may well create about 1,700 direct jobs but even more importantly it will broaden Saskatchewan's economic base," the Prime Minister said.

"Saskatchewan will be building a much-expanded iron and steel complex to take advantage of growing industrial growth in Western Canada — industrial growth encouraged by the Federal Government, and industrial growth requiring ever more iron and steel."

Negotiation of details will follow the agreement in principle which the Prime Minister has now signed and which has been sent to Premier Blakeney in Regina.

Such details, the elements of a comprehensive iron and steel development program, will include: an iron-ore exploration program in Saskatchewan; market and/or feasibility studies on an iron and steel complex in the province; an ore-reduction plant; the expansion and diversification of the steel industry in Saskatchewan; and the infrastructure for an iron and steel complex.

The agreement, which will end in March 1979, provides that an extension may be negotiated.

An expanded iron and steel industry in Saskatchewan would complement new federally-encouraged developments in oil and gas, petrochemicals, pipelines and other projects now coming to fruition in the West, the Prime Minister said.



**World Administrative Radio Conference on Maritime Mobile Telecommunications**

Canada is participating in a World Administrative Radio Conference on Maritime Mobile Telecommunications, which opened in Geneva in the last week of April, under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Maxwell Yalden, Deputy Minister of Communications, is leading the Canadian delegation, with F.G. Perrin of the Department's International Telecommunications Branch serving as alternate head of delegation. The Canadian team is composed of senior officials of the Departments of Communications, Transport and National Defence.

Before the conference are such topics as redistribution of radiotelegraphy frequencies, revision of spectrum allotments for high-frequency voice communications and discussion of possible standards for selective calling systems. Provisions for distress and safety communications are also on the agenda.

The meeting, which continues until

June 7, will elect five members to the ITU's International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB). The IFRB evaluates and records frequency assignments throughout the world and offers advice to ITU member states on control and prevention of harmful interference between radio stations.

In Canada, the Department of Communications has the responsibility of ensuring that the best use is made of the electromagnetic spectrum. To that end, it sets technical standards for equipment, assigns frequencies, licenses users of the resource, monitors the air waves, and investigates incidents of interference.

The World Administrative Conferences of the ITU, which deal with radiocommunication, are called from time to time to revise international radio regulations. These revisions, consequently, have an impact on domestic regulations. The last world administrative radio conference on maritime mobile telecommunications was held in 1967.

**Federal-provincial bilingualism plan**

James Faulkner, Secretary of State, recently announced to the House of Commons that arrangements had been completed with provincial ministers of education for renewal of the federal-provincial program on bilingualism in education. Under this program, effective April 1, the Federal Government will give funds to assist the provinces with the supplementary costs of providing minority language education and second-language instruction for a five-year period.

The objectives of the program, Mr. Faulkner said, were twofold: "To ensure that, insofar as it is feasible, Canadians of either official language have the opportunity to educate their children in their own language, and that Canadian students have the opportunity to learn, as a second language, the other official language of Canada."

Mr. Faulkner continued:

... "As under the existing program, the bulk of federal financial support after April 1, 1974, will take the form of payments made to the provinces based on the number of students enrolled in second-language programs and the time spent on these activities. In addition, a federal contribution of 1.5 per cent of the annual per student cost will be paid to the provincial governments for administrative purposes and will be based on the total number of school children in each province belonging to the minority language group.

\* \* \* \*

"I expect federal funding to continue at much the same annual level as at present for most elements of the program. Cost of the over-all program during the past four years has averaged some \$70 million annually.

"...I feel that the real answer to recognizing the bilingual reality of Canada is through the school system. If bilingualism is to work, the base must be established within our schools...."

**Discontinuance of quarterly index**

The subject index, which appeared quarterly in Canada Weekly, has been discontinued. For your convenience, the editor will be pleased to answer any enquiries regarding articles.



One of the efforts by the University of Sherbrooke, Quebec, made with the object of abolishing architectural barriers, is this public telephone for persons in wheelchairs, installed in the

entrance of the university's central pavilion. An entrance at ground level and a wash-room, have also been specially built for the handicapped.

(University of Sherbrooke photo)



### Contribution to the United Nations Development Program

A cheque for \$22,200,000, Canada's contribution for 1974, to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), was presented on April 10 by Dr. Saul F. Rae, Canadian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, to UNDP administrator Rudolph A. Peterson.

Canada's continuing strong support for the activities of the UNDP was emphasized by Dr. Rae, who stated that the sustained growth of the Canadian contribution was an indication of the confidence the Canadian Government had in the UNDP as an international development agency.

The contribution of \$22,200,000 in Canadian funds includes \$21,700,000 for the regular budget of the UNDP, and a supplementary sum of \$500,000

designated for projects designed to accelerate the advancement of the least-developed countries. In 1973, Canada contributed \$19,800,000 (U.S. funds) to the regular budget and \$500,000 (U.S. funds) for the least developed. Thus the 1974 contribution represents an increase of \$1.9 million over that of 1973.

Canada has been traditionally one of the leading contributors to this program, with contributions since 1959 in excess of \$220 million. This year is the first in which the Canadian Government, at the request of the UNDP administration, has pledged and paid its contribution in Canadian currency. In accordance with the operating principles of the UNDP, the Canadian contribution is made in convertible funds.

### Garbage may be possible answer to energy shortage

The Minister of State for Urban Affairs, Ron Basford, recently announced that the National Capital Commission would seek proposals from industry for the possible establishment of a system in the national capital region to convert garbage into steam or electrical energy. Proposals, which must be submitted to the Commission on or before May 24, must inform the Commission on the technology now available for refuse conversion, declare interest or intent in making specific commitments to build a plant, and estimate construction time and costs, operating costs and the feasibility of recovering metal and glass and of incorporating dry sewage sludge in the refuse to be converted.

### Canada/Belgium literary prizewinner

The fourth Canada/Belgium Prize has been awarded to Canadian writer Réjean Ducharme, who was presented with \$2,000 on March 19 at the Brussels Book Fair in Belgium.

Réjean Ducharme was born in 1941 at St-Félix-de-Valois, near Joliette, Quebec. He served for a short time in the RCAF and travelled extensively in North America. His first novel, *L'Avalée des Avalées* (1966), won him immediate fame and a Governor General's Literary Award. Since then, Ducharme has published four other novels, including *Le Nez qui voque* (1967), which was made into a film, *L'Océantume* (1968), *La Fille de Christophe Colomb* (1969) and *L'hiver de force* (1973).

Co-sponsored by the Canadian and Belgian Governments, the Canada/Belgium Literary Prize goes alternately to French-language Belgian and Canadian writers and is awarded on the basis of all of a writer's literary work. Canadian participation is financed by the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of External Affairs. The prize was awarded last year to Belgian writer Suzanne Lilar.

Winners of the Canada/Belgium Prize are chosen by a jury appointed by the Belgian Ministry of Culture and the Canada Council.

### Postage stamp commemorates Winnipeg's centennial

An 8-cent stamp, commemorating the centennial of Winnipeg's incorporation as a city, issued on May 3, portrays the corner of Portage Avenue and Main Street, Winnipeg, as it was in 1872. It was at this famous intersection, the junction of two important Red River trails, that the city which was later to become Manitoba's capital, was born.



### Gateway to the West

"This stamp issue celebrates the centennial of a city which has stood for more than 100 years as Canada's 'gateway to the West,'" stated Postmaster General André Ouellet.

Although Winnipeg celebrates its centennial in 1974, its history dates

### New community in the capital

The Federal Government has authorized the National Capital Commission to acquire about 4,000 acres of land as part of the planned federal-provincial development of a new community ten miles from Parliament Hill. It will be designed to house some 100,000 persons by 1990.

back to 1738, when the explorer and fur trader Pierre de La Vérendrye established Fort Rouge, a fur trading post.

Winnipeg's origin and growth can be traced to its strategic geographical position at the union of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. The city depended on the Hudson's Bay Company, whose need for food supplies and for boatmen to transport supplies and furs, gave it its economic base.

The Selkirk colonists arrived in the fertile Red River Valley in 1812. In the 1860s, independent traders founded, in the vicinity of the Hudson's Bay Company post at Fort Garry, a village called McDermotstown. The name was later changed to Winnipeg, taken from two Cree words meaning murky water.

Today Winnipeg has a population of 530,000. Its industries are the garment industry, transportation, food processing and agricultural industries.



### Newfoundland marks 25th anniversary as a Canadian province

In a ceremony in St. John's Newfoundland on March 31, Premier Frank Moores lighted a flame in front of Confederation Building, the provincial legislature, to mark the beginning of Newfoundland's twenty-fifth year as a province of Canada. About 500 people attended the flame-lighting ceremony, which was preceded by music and songs in the foyer of the government building. In communities throughout the province bonfires burned in celebration of what the provincial government calls a six-month anniversary party.

Mr. Moores paid tribute to former Premier Joseph Smallwood and to others who had contributed to bring Newfoundland into Confederation in 1949. "Newfoundland," said Mr. Moores, "is moving into a new period of maturity, away from such labels as 'new Canadians' and the 'youngest province'."

"We must now see ourselves simply as Canadians and a province just like any other — but with one exception — we must work and strive to make our province the strongest economic and social link in the Confederation chain," he declared.

#### Major events

Among the major events will be the visit of "entertainment caravans" to some 450 communities in the province during the summer. "Provincial Weeks" to be held in ten different locations in Newfoundland, will include banquets and other festivities in honour of the other provinces and two territories which, it is hoped, will be attended by their premiers and other ministers. During each week a geographic feature of the area will be renamed for the province being commemorated.

#### Newfoundland's history

In August 1583, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, a half-brother of Sir Walter Raleigh, took possession of the island on behalf of the English but various attempts to colonize it remained unsuccessful and close to 300 years were to elapse before Newfoundland began its development as a true colony.

Until 1832, Newfoundland was ruled by a governor under instructions from



Corner Brook, Newfoundland

(National Film Board photo)

the British Colonial Office. In that year, in response to continuing demands by residents, a legislature was brought into existence and the governor and his executive became responsible to it in the year 1855.

When the question of federation of the British North American colonies was first raised in 1858, Newfoundland showed some interest. The colony was not invited to the Charlottetown Conference in 1864, which, although originally called to discuss only a union of the three maritime provinces, developed into a conference of all the mainland colonies. At the Quebec Conference, later in the same year, Newfoundland was represented by a bi-party delegation. Although they had no power to commit the Newfoundland Government, the members of the delegation were in favour of union. No action was taken before Confederation became effective and when, in 1869, the

Government went to the country on a confederation platform it was decisively defeated. Confederation negotiations were reopened in Ottawa in April 1895, but failure to agree on financial terms led to the abandonment of the talks.

#### Critical financial situation

Newfoundland suffered severe financial problems during the Great Depression and could not continue to be self-supporting. By 1933, the financial situation had become so critical that the Government of Newfoundland asked the British Government to appoint a royal commission to investigate conditions. On the strength of their recommendations, the parliamentary form of government was suspended and Government by Commission was inaugurated on February 16, 1934.

During the Second World War, Newfoundland's financial position improved

#### Some strange place names of Newfoundland

Newfoundland has, perhaps the most unusual collection of place names of any country in the world. Consider, for instance: Jerry's Nose; Nick's Nose Cove; Come-by-Chance; Blow-me-down; Lushes Bight; Bumble Bee Bight; Ha Ha Bay; Run-by-guess; Right-in-the-Run Island; Bleak Joke Cove; Calves Nose; Nancy Oh; Little Hooping Harbour; Snake's Bight and, of course, Joe Batt's Arm.

Those who experienced hardship or disaster on the rugged coastline, probably gave the province the following: Gripe Point; Bad Bay; Bleak Island; Misery Point; Famine Point; Wild Bight; Breakheart Point; Famish Gut; Savage Cove; Confusion Bay; Wreck Cove; Bareneed; and Empty Basket.



considerably and the future form of government became an issue. In the second of two national referenda held in 1948, a majority of the electors decided in favour of union with Canada. On February 18, 1949 Royal Assent was given to the terms of the union and Newfoundland officially became Canada's tenth province immediately before midnight on March 31, 1949.

Newfoundland comprises two main areas: the island of Newfoundland, with an area of approximately 43,000 square miles and the land mass of Labrador, with an area of some 113,000 square miles. The province is rich in natural resources and the economy is based largely on primary industry. It is also strongly dependent upon external trade since most of the requirements of the population must be imported and to balance these imports a high level of exports must be maintained.

### Dental study startles

The April 4 issue of *UBC Reports*, a publication of the University of British Columbia, states that cleaning one's teeth and avoiding sugary foods might not result in less tooth decay after all.

That startling conclusion has come out of a study done by two members of the UBC Faculty of Dentistry, Dr. Alan S. Richardson, associate professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, and special lecturer Dr. Marcia A. Boyd, who arrived at this result after a study involving 453 children in the Vancouver area in Grades 1 to 7.

The study was set up to establish specific figures on just how clean teeth should be and how little sugar should be eaten to produce fewer cavities.

The amount of food eaten by the children at home over five days was recorded by the children and their

parents. Information gathered included how often the children ate and what they ate during and between meals.

Cleanliness of the children's teeth was measured through a standing technique. Decay, fillings and missing teeth were also recorded.

Though various methods were used to measure cleanliness and tooth decay, no significant correlation was established between the type and frequency of foods eaten, dental decay and tooth cleanliness when the data were analyzed by a computer.

"The children with the most tooth decay did not have the dirtiest teeth nor did they eat the most sugar," said Dr. Richardson.

"And the children with the healthiest teeth did not eat the least amount of sugar nor did they have the cleanest teeth."

He said that the findings were unusual and unexpected, but "perhaps we have over-emphasized the importance of brushing teeth to prevent tooth decay, because the teeth we considered clean appear not to be clean enough to prevent decay".

Dr. Richardson said that because measuring sugar intake was open to error, diet surveys of this kind could very well not accurately predict decay rate in children who consumed a large amount of sugar.

"However," he said, "there is the possibility that what we consider a low-sugar diet still contains too much sugar as far as tooth decay is concerned."

He said that the results of the study supported the importance of fluoridation of drinking water.

### New minimum wage rates

Effective April 1, the federal minimum wage was raised to \$2.20 an hour, from \$1.90.

The minimum rate in Newfoundland, now \$1.80, will be raised to \$1.90 in July and to \$2.20 next year; in British Columbia, the present minimum rate of \$2.25 will rise to \$2.50 in June; the rate in Yukon is \$2.30; Ontario's minimum rate was increased by 20 cents on January 1 to \$2 general, and to \$2.25 for construction workers; \$2 is the current minimum in Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories; in July, the minimum wage rate in Alberta will rise

by 10 cents to \$2 in July; in Manitoba the rate is \$1.90; Quebec's minimum rate of \$1.85 rose to \$2 on May 1 and will rise to \$2.15 in November; New Brunswick's rate, now at \$1.75 minimum, will increase to \$1.90 on July 1 and to \$2.30 on July 1, 1975; the rate in Nova Scotia, now at \$1.65, will rise to \$1.80 in July; and in Prince Edward Island, the minimum rate of \$1.65 for men will be raised to \$1.75 in July.

### Stanley Cup record and World Hockey Association semi-finals (at May 5)

#### National Hockey League

April 28, Boston 6, Chicago 2  
April 30, Boston 4, Chicago 2

Boston wins 4-2 in best-of-seven series.

April 28, NY Rangers 2, Philadelphia 1  
April 30, Philadelphia 4, NY Rangers 1  
May 2, NY Rangers 4, Philadelphia 1  
May 5, Philadelphia 4, NY Rangers 3

Philadelphia wins 4-3 in best-of-seven series.

#### World Hockey Association

April 28, Chicago 3, Toronto 2  
April 30, Toronto 7, Chicago 6  
May 1, Toronto 5, Chicago 3  
May 4, Chicago 9, Toronto 2

Tied three games each in best-of-seven series.

April 28, Houston 3, Minnesota 1  
April 29, Houston 9, Minnesota 4  
May 1, Houston 3, Minnesota 1

Houston wins 4-2 in best-of-seven series.

### Corrigendum

Please read "24" for "12", second last line of article entitled "Canadian assists ILO", Page 4, *Canada Weekly* dated April 17, 1974.

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

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*Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada. Ciertos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.*

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