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## French language and the new Canadian Constitution

In a recent speech to the Association France-Amérique in Paris, Canada's Commissioner for Official Languages Max Yalden outlined the status of the French language in Canada, particularly in light of recent changes in the Canadian Constitution.

He noted that as recently as 20 years ago, the French language was used within the federal government "more by accident than by design", with Francophone representation in the public service largely restricted to government agencies located in Quebec and in the national capital. Furthermore, Francophones were far fewer in number than Anglophones in management ranks and rare in the key technical, scientific and economic sectors.

The need for reform and the profound changes unfolding in Quebec during the Sixties sparked the creation in 1963 of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism with a mandate to report on the state of bilingualism in Canada. "The Commission sounded the alarm by stating that, unless major reforms took place, the future of Canada was gravely endangered," said Mr. Yalden.

One of the Commission's key recommendations was the adoption in 1969 of

the Official Languages Act which gave French and English "equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all the institutions of the Parliament and government of Canada". This means that members of the public were given the right to receive federal services in the official language of their choice.

The Commission also established the office of the Commissioner of Official Languages whose role is to act as a linguistic ombudsman, auditor and spokesman on official language matters, Mr. Yalden pointed out.

The new legislation was designed to ensure that all government departments and agencies dealing with the public — including Crown corporations such as Canada Post or Air Canada — provide their services in both French and English. Services of a cultural nature (radio and television), and legal or judicial matters (the courts and the penitentiary system) must all be provided in both languages.

Mr. Yalden emphasized that the proposed language reform did not call for a policy of universal individual bilingualism. "There was no question of providing absolute guarantees that Francophones might live in French at every hour of the day everywhere in Canada or that Anglophones might do likewise everywhere in Quebec.... What must be borne in mind is that federal authorities have always set as their first priority the development of bilingual institutions designed to enable Francophones to feel at ease in their dealings with the federal government and to have access to federal services on terms equal to those enjoyed by their Anglophone fellow citizens. The primary means of achieving this objective has been to promote French in departments and agencies of the Parliament and government of Canada."

### Progress to date

According to Mr. Yalden, "progress so far has not been sufficient to convince our Francophone compatriots...that they can



Max Yalden



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rest easy" in the sure knowledge their linguistic and cultural survival is now guaranteed. "However," he continued, "if we remember where we started from, we see that progress has been quite remarkable." The range of services offered in French by the federal administration has grown considerably. Many federal institutions have achieved an acceptable level of linguistic performance. And opportunities to work in French within the federal administration have increased, the most substantial improvements taking place in institutions located in Quebec where they generally use French in the workplace and — as they could not before — deal most of the time in French with government head offices in Ottawa. There is also much more equitable representation in the federal public service.

### The 1982 Constitution Act

Though still too early to assess the impact of the recent changes in the Constitution Act, Mr. Yalden made some salient points.

"The constitutional provisions of our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms confer 'equality of status and equal rights and privileges' as to the use of French and English in institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada. The Charter specifies that this equality of status for the two languages and the rights flowing from equality apply to the legislatures, statutes and courts. Moreover, it guarantees all Canadians the right to be served in the official language of their choice at any office or headquarters of the federal government where there is significant demand and where the nature of the office makes service in both languages reasonable.

"In terms of education, the Charter affirms the right of members of the Francophone or Anglophone minority of a province to choose the language in which their children are taught. This right applies wherever numbers warrant, and includes the right to minority language educational facilities provided out of public funds. Lastly, our new Constitution provides that anyone whose rights or freedoms, as guaranteed by the Charter, have been infringed on or denied may seek remedy in the courts."

While the declaration of equal rights for official languages and its implications for legislature, courts and government services pose few ambiguities, the Charter is far less clear in its provisions relating to language rights in the educational field. However, the process of defining these



*The Public Service Language Centre of Canada, in Ottawa, where federal employees improve their knowledge of their second official language.*

provisions has begun, a first step being a decision of the Quebec Superior Court on the constitutionality of Quebec legislation governing access to English-language schools.

### Constitutional protection major step

"There is absolutely no doubt that constitutional protection for language rights itself represents major progress," said Mr. Yalden. The statement on rights and obligations regarding the use of both official languages in the judicial sphere represents little change since provisions existed in the past. But the Charter provides a constitutional confirmation of the status of languages in this sector which is extremely important in symbolic terms.

The new constitutional right to government services in the language of one's choice not only adds weight to the Official Languages Act but also offers recourse to the courts, a right which previously did not exist.

But the most significant change, Mr. Yalden emphasized, is that relating to language rights in education.

"If we agree with the statement of a University of Ottawa law professor that education has thus far been the major divisive factor between Anglophones and Francophones, we may also share with him the view that the courts now have an opportunity, as never before, to eliminate once and for all the long-standing mistrust in educational matters...."

In conclusion, Mr. Yalden stated that whatever final judgment history makes of

our efforts, "I am convinced that few countries have dared to conceive and pursue as broad-ranging and courageous a transformation of their language regime. For a country like ours, solidly rooted in the American continent, this transformation is nothing less than a second and no less significant quiet revolution.

"The Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, which I mentioned earlier, issued the almost prophetic statement that Canada was 'passing through the greatest crisis in its history'. Although we would be mistaken in thinking that this crisis is now a thing of the past, we should bear in mind that, in linguistic terms, Canada in its federal administration is no longer the unilingual Anglophone country it once was.

"Generally speaking," he continued, "the French-speaking citizen of Canada can obtain, and require that the federal government provide, services in the language of his choice. The Francophone public servant may now, subject to certain conditions, choose to work in his mother tongue. And Canada's Francophones are gradually gaining their proper place in the federal public service. As for the future, in my view much will depend both on the political will of our leaders and on the attitudes of our two principal language communities. I, for my part, believe that we can count on the determination of the latter and the high principles of the former to guarantee a common destiny for the Francophones and Anglophones of Canada, once and for all."

## France participates in Expo 86

French Minister of Transportation Charles Fiterman has announced that France will participate in the 1986 World Exposition to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, from May 2 to October 13.

The commitment was made during recent meetings in France between Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy.

British Columbia's minister responsible for Expo 86, Claude Richmond, commented: "Expo's theme of transportation and related communication is particularly well suited to the French. France has an impressive list of firsts, particularly in the field of air travel."

Senator Jack Austin, federal minister responsible for Expo 86, was delighted by the news. "It is most appropriate that France, whose famed voyageurs helped open up Western Canada, should be the first continental European country to join the roster of national participants at Expo 86, which now has reached 14."

Since the Montgolfier balloon rose from French soil in 1793 chalking up the first aerial voyage in history, France has claimed the first parachute descent, aerial photo, manned powered dirigible, helicopter flight, seaplane flight and air mail service.

France's Aerospatiale, co-developer of the *Concorde*, has become the largest aerospace company in the European Common Market, with involvement in Europe's *Ariane* space launcher. Carrying on an old tradition, France is also researching modern airships.

In land transport, France has been called the cradle of modern road technology. Public buses were introduced in France in the 1600s, and today France's 260-kilometre-an-hour *Train à Grande Vitesse (TGV)* is hailed as Europe's first high speed passenger rail line.

But Canada's historic tie to France is strongest in the area of marine transport. The sea link forged 450 years ago by Jacques Cartier, Samuel de Champlain and the founders of New France is itself a remarkable story of transportation and communications.

Thirteen other flags now fly at Expo 86 headquarters beside the French tri-colour — those of Britain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Kenya, Senegal, Dominica, St. Vincent, Montserrat, United States, Peru, Indonesia, Australia and the host nation, Canada. Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia have also pledged pavilions.

## New keys to cancer detection

Researchers at the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories, Ontario, have made important new breakthroughs in detecting cancer origins.

Since Isaac Berenblum's classical model of tumour production was developed in the early 1940s, earlier researchers have been aware of two stages of tumour development, an initiative phase and a promotion phase. In Berenblum's experiments, mouse skin was first exposed to a coal tar derivative (tumour initiator), followed by repeated doses of a skin irritant (tumour promoter).

In the past decade, cancer researchers have concentrated on the identification of tumour initiators — those chemicals, now numbered in the thousands, which are capable of causing mutations in living cells and are presumed to be carcinogenic (cancer causing) for man.

### Soot and saccharin

One of the earliest-recognized carcinogens was soot, known some 100 years ago to cause scrotal cancer in chimney sweeps. Tumour promoters — chemicals which enhance rather than initiate the development of cancers — have gained less attention. Saccharin is an example of a chemical which is believed to act as a tumour promoter.

In the 1980s, Dr. Chaim Birnboim and co-workers John Jevcak and Alf Knight of the radiation biology branch of AECL are beginning to unravel the mystery of what actually happens in the promotion phase of tumour production. Their theory is that the tumour promoter

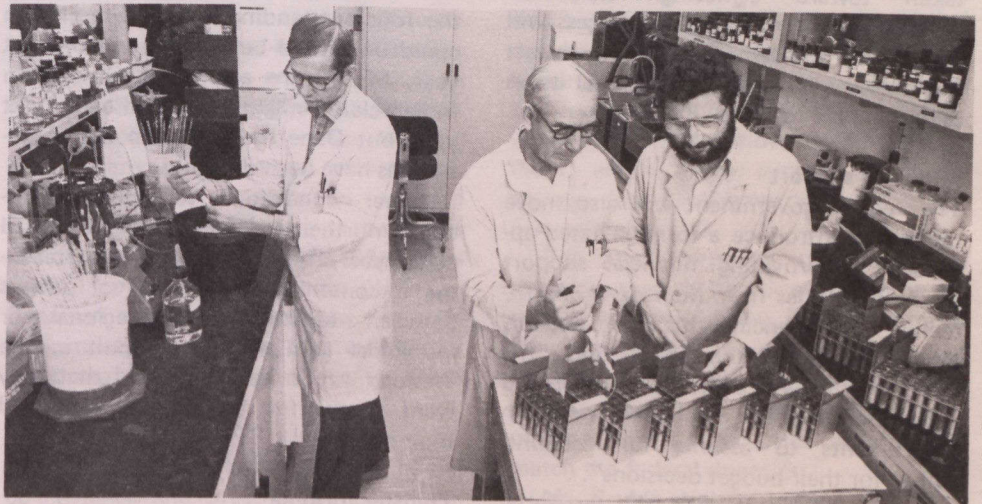
exerts an effect on skin cells *via* an indirect route: the chemical promoter has an initial irritant effect which leads to localized inflammation causing special white blood cells called phagocytes to arrive on the scene. Phagocytes' normal function is to protect an infected area by "swallowing" the bacteria at the site and they actually bombard the bacteria with reactive chemicals such as hydrogen peroxide.

In mouse skin experiments, repeated doses of the tumour promoter fool the phagocytes, triggering the cells to produce hydrogen peroxide and other reactive forms of oxygen which cause damage of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) in normal cells in the area. It is this damage to DNA in skin cells which they believe may be responsible for tumour promotion.

### Model tested

Birnboim and Jevcak tested their model with the rapid and sensitive FADU (fluoro-metric analysis of DNA unwinding) test which they recently developed to detect DNA damage in living human cells. When they exposed human white blood cells, which are similar to mouse phagocytes, to even extremely low amounts of the known cancer promoter, phorbol ester, they found DNA damage roughly equivalent to that expected from an enormous radiation dose of 1000 rads. Such DNA damage was predicted by their model.

The Chalk River work identifying processes likely involved in the promotion of tumours is a significant step towards a better understanding of factors that can cause cancer.



AECL researchers, (left to right): John Jevcak, Alf Knight and Chaim Birnboim, use their fluorometric technique for analysis of DNA damage in samples of white cells which have been exposed to tumour-promoting chemicals.

## Northwest Territories split approved by Ottawa

The government has given conditional agreement to divide the Northwest Territories into two new regions and give them and the Yukon more independence.

In a recent announcement, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs John Munro pointed out that while the federal government was prepared to accept in principle the sub-division of the Northwest Territories, acceptance was contingent on settlement of comprehensive land claims and on northerners' forging a consensus on such crucial issues as boundaries, future locations of any new administrative centres and the distribution of powers with respect to local, regional and territorial levels of government.

Provincial status for Yukon and the Northwest Territories is not a realistic objective in the foreseeable future, Mr. Munro explained. "I am confident that most northerners will acknowledge the realities which underlie this broad restraint. The small population base, a vast area, an undeveloped and narrowly-based economy and the need of the federal government to protect Canada's national interests, all militate against serious consideration of provincial status at this time."

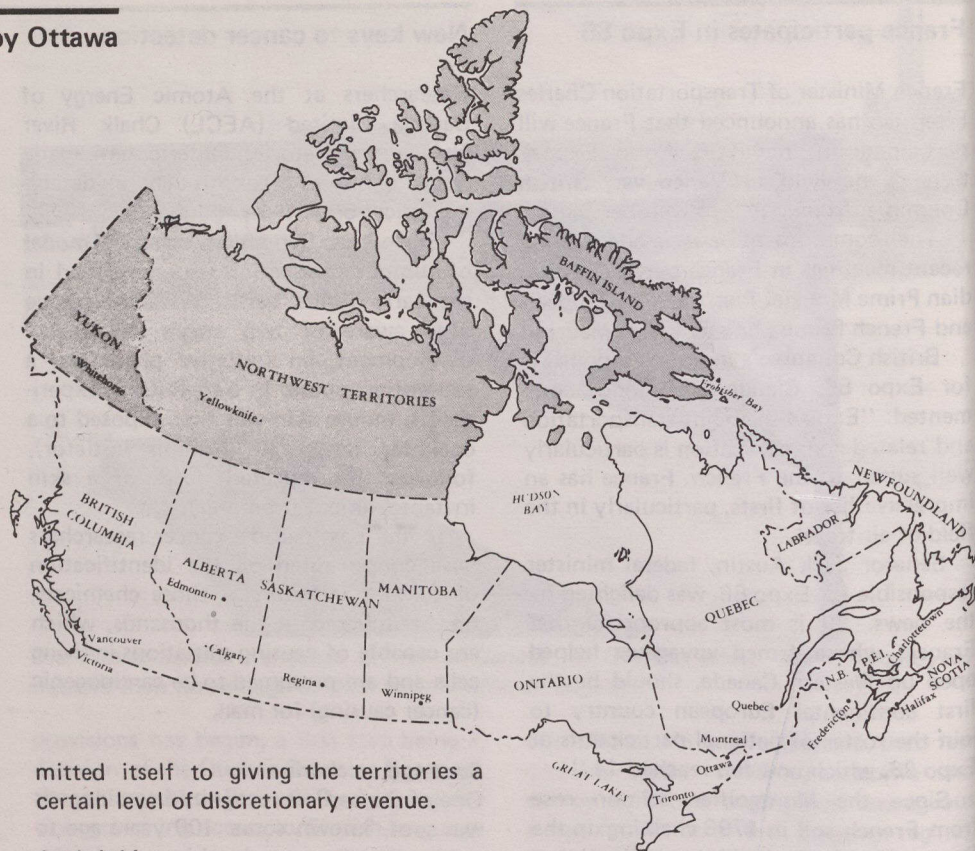
The federal government has, however, renewed its long-standing commitment to responsible government and reinforced that commitment with new measures that will provide a solid base for future political growth.

The Yukon Act will be amended as soon as native claims have been settled. It will confirm in law the steps already taken toward achieving responsible government in Yukon. This process will be delayed somewhat in the Northwest Territories while such fundamental issues as division are resolved.

### Financial support

The federal government will also move rapidly to introduce a formula-based approach to providing financial support to the territories from the federal government. In announcing this initiative, Mr. Munro expressed the belief that "the effect of this will be to allow improved fiscal planning and to enable northern governments to assume full accountability for their budget decisions".

To further strengthen the territorial governments and help them deal with the related costs of resource development, the federal government has also com-



mitted itself to giving the territories a certain level of discretionary revenue.

### Inuit lobby

Inuit in the Eastern Arctic have been lobbying Ottawa for eight years to divide the 3.3-million square kilometre Northwest Territories into two political units along a northwest to a southeast axis that roughly corresponds with the treeline.

A majority of voters in a Northwest Territories plebiscite last April approved the principle even though Dene Indians in the western portion have conflicting land claims with the Inuit.

It is unlikely that more than two of the four outstanding claims in the North could be settled before the end of next year, Mr. Munro acknowledged. Yukon Indian claims might be settled early next year, but Dene Indians claim that negotiations have been dragging.

Other conditions for division include northerners maintaining a broad consensus on the issue and their reaching a consensus on division of powers between territorial and regional or municipal administrations. Inuit in the Western Arctic have indicated that they want a powerful regional government of their own.

### Transfer formula

Mr. Munro said that the introduction of a transfer formula for financing government services in the Northwest

Territories and Yukon would give elected politicians in Yellowknife and Whitehorse a great degree of autonomy in setting their spending priorities and greater certainty about annual revenues.

The formula, which has yet to be agreed to, might end up giving the Northwest Territories less federal money, officials in Yellowknife said.

Ottawa will keep control over revenues from resources in both territories but will try to devise a proposal for additional revenues for the territories to offset some of their expenses related to resource development, Mr. Munro said.

### Self-determination

"The past decade has seen great progress toward self-determination in Canada's North, which has excited and exhilarated everyone associated with it," Mr. Munro concluded.

"These accomplishments are a source of great pride to northerners. I share their pride on behalf of the federal government, which has worked toward creating a favourable environment for these achievements in response to the people's stated aspirations. The Canadian nation as a whole can only benefit from the growing strength and responsibility of the political institutions in the North."

## Canada proposes world videotex marriage to create global super system

Communications Minister Francis Fox has called on supporters of the world's major competing videotex systems to combine their efforts to create a new global super-standard for videotex. Speaking recently to delegates at VIDCOM '82, the International Videocommunications Congress, in Cannes, France, Mr. Fox said it was "time for *détente* in the international videotex standards arena".

The minister said that the videotex industry had grown to the point where there were more than 125 000 users of different forms of videotex (two-way television and computer information systems) in 18 countries. Also, nearly one million people were using the one-way broadcast version of the technology, known as teletext.

### Telidon's success

Mr. Fox noted that Canada's Telidon technology had been sold in Canada, the United States, Britain, Venezuela, Switzerland, West Germany, Japan and Australia and that despite global economic conditions, the international videotex industry was poised for rapid growth and would probably be a multi-billion dollar market by the end of the decade. However, he said there were still certain obstacles to the development of the industry, one of which was the uncertainty among potential investors caused by the international debate over technical standards.

"I believe the time has come for us to put the old disagreements behind us, to combine our strengths and to work together to create universal videotex super-standards that would meet all our needs. I am proposing a form of international tele-matrimony, an open-systems marriage of videotex networks built to different standards that would allow the contents of videotex data bases in each nation to be shared by users in other nations," Mr. Fox said.

"We in Canada recognize that this will require a lengthy and arduous courtship," he went on. "At present, as you are aware, the world seems divided into the European and North American camps. But these camps are themselves the result of successful compromise among nations with differing priorities and interests."

### European co-operation

Mr. Fox noted that the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications



Communications Minister Francis Fox

Administrations (CEPT) had devised a standard that is a "super-set" of the British Prestel and French Antiope standards to bring technical compatibility to the videotex systems of Europe. "Similarly, the North American Videotex/Teletext Presentation Level Protocol Syntax (NA-PLPS) has been arrived at after lengthy technical debate and negotiation among videotex experts in Canada and the United States."

The NA-PLPS standard, based largely on the advanced Canadian Telidon graphics technique, was announced jointly by representatives of the Canadian Standards Association and the American National Standards Institute in June at the Videotex '82 conference in New York. Many of the largest communications and computer companies in North America have announced plans to use this standard in videotex and teletext systems to be launched in the coming year. The Canadian videotex industry has sold both equipment and services to a number of US companies and institutions for these new videotex systems.

"Just as the CEPT standard was arrived at based upon the principle of the co-existence and preservation of all the individual features of the original Prestel and Antiope systems, so can a just and acceptable world super-standard be

achieved through the marriage of the CEPT and North American standards based upon the same principle of preserving the integrity of both standards and the rights of all parties," Mr. Fox said. He announced that Canada's delegation to the next meeting of the International Consultative Committee on Telegraphs and Telephones (CCITT) in Geneva in November would make proposals in this regard. The US delegation was expected to make similar proposals, Mr. Fox said.

"The international videotex industry has come of age in the past few years. The uncertainties of our technical adolescence are behind us. Now is the time for us to form a mature partnership of equals, in order that we may concentrate on the challenges of spreading the benefits of videotex around the world."

Mr. Fox also visited Algeria to discuss areas where the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Canadian companies could provide technical advice in the development of Algeria's national broadcasting system.

## Asia Pacific Foundation study

The text of a study prepared by John Bruk of Vancouver on the feasibility of establishing an Asia Pacific Foundation has been released by Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen. The work was undertaken by Mr. Bruk at the invitation of Mr. MacEachen's predecessor, Mark MacGuigan, in October 1981.

The idea of establishing an Asia Pacific Foundation has been discussed for some time as a means of enhancing the relationship between Canada and the countries of Asia and the Pacific, a region of growing importance for Canada both politically and economically. Such a foundation, while somewhat removed from government, would enjoy support from the various levels of government and the private sector.

The study requests the immediate setting up of a board of founding directors who would seek incorporation of the foundation. It is also asking the federal government to commit \$20 million (Cdn) over three years and that provincial and territorial governments match the federal donation.

Mr. Bruk's study is being reviewed by the government which will announce its response to his recommendations in the next few weeks.

## Parliament to consider mandatory supervision amendments

Proposals for tighter restrictions on penitentiary inmates released under mandatory supervision will be considered by Parliament, announced Solicitor General Robert Kaplan recently.

Mandatory supervision was introduced in 1970 as a result of concerns expressed over the release of inmates after serving two-thirds of their sentences if they had earned the time off for good behaviour. Under the previous regime of "earned remission", an inmate was released "free and clear" into the community, and was not responsible to the National Parole Board for the final third of his or her warrant.

The introduction of mandatory supervision, as an alternative, provided for a more careful supervision of an inmate's activities by a parole officer, and thus provided greater security to the public.

The proposed change in law being made by the Solicitor General provides an even further degree of public protection and encourages the released inmate to be more responsible in his or her behaviour.

"Mandatory supervision is a controversial program," Mr. Kaplan said. "It is that final portion (up to one-third) of an inmate's sentence that is spent on the street as a result of remission earned for good behaviour during imprisonment. Mandatory supervision is different from

parole, which is granted by the National Parole Board only in selected cases. By contrast, release under mandatory supervision is provided for by law once an inmate has earned his remission."

### Revolving-door syndrome

"During this period of mandatory supervision," Mr. Kaplan explained, "the inmate must report regularly to a parole officer who ensures that he respects certain conditions placed on his release: regular reporting to police, restrictions on travel and the incurring of debt, and reporting of any changes in his employment status." If he violates these or becomes involved in criminal activity, he can be returned to the penitentiary. "However," Mr. Kaplan explained, "these revocations often result in what we call 'the revolving-door syndrome'. Because of the automatic-release feature under the 1970 law, resulting from earned remission, the inmate who already has only a short period left to serve on his sentence is soon back out on the street again."

Mr. Kaplan proposes the elimination of the automatic-release feature following a violation of any sort during the mandatory release period. "Every inmate will still get to earn, by good behaviour, one chance on the street, but if he breaks the conditions of mandatory supervision or

becomes involved in criminal activity, he will be returned to prison and will not be released again automatically. Instead, he will have to convince the National Parole Board that he is worthy of release." This new measure will thus end "revolving door" cases and will increase the length of time spent in prison by offenders who have demonstrated that they are not prepared to adjust in a law-abiding fashion to life in the community. "In addition," Mr. Kaplan pointed out, "if he does commit a crime while on mandatory supervision, he or she will not be entitled to earn remission on that portion of the new sentence that overlaps the original sentence."

## Brazil buys Canadian communications satellites

Under an agreement worth more than \$150 million, Canada's Spar Aerospace Ltd. will build two domestic communications satellites for Embratel, the telecommunications network of Brazil. The deal represents Canada's largest foreign contract undertaken directly by a Canadian satellite firm.

Spar will build the satellites in cooperation with Telesat Canada Ltd., SED Systems of Saskatoon and Hughes Aircraft Co. of California. About 60 per cent of the satellites' components will be Canadian-manufactured.

Spar's plant in Kanata, Ontario will build the electronic components for attitude control, digital electronics, earth sensors and amplifier systems. The same plant manufactured new power and signal interface units recently used during the launch of *Anik C-3* from the space shuttle *Columbia* in November.

The Brazil satellites, 6.6-metres-long and 2.1-metres-wide, will be similar in technology to Canada's *Anik D* satellite, launched in August. Capable of carrying 24 television channels, they are expected to last ten years in a 35 000-kilometre orbit above the equator.

The satellites, which represent Latin America's first domestic satellite system, will be capable of beaming signals to the entire country. They are scheduled for delivery to the Brazilian government in 1984 and 1985, and will be sent into orbit from the European launcher *Ariane* in February and July 1985.

Spar will also provide training for about 45 Embratel employees at the David Florida laboratories in Ottawa, and at its Satellite and Aerospace Systems Division in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec

## New Year's first stamp features Point Pelee National Park

A new stamp depicting Point Pelee National Park in southern Ontario will be issued on January 10. The \$5 stamp will be the fourth in a continuing series that has already included Fundy, Kluane and Waterton Lakes National Parks.

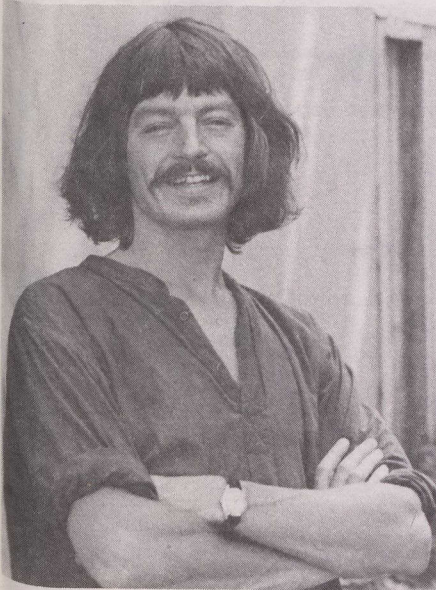
Point Pelee National Park is bounded on two sides by the moderating waters of Lake Erie. Because of its geographical location, it boasts one of the warmest climates in Canada with several diverse environments and numerous types of flora and fauna that appear nowhere else in Canada. Reptiles and amphibians thrive in the park and the area is renowned as a mecca for bird-watchers. About 90 species nest in the park and hundreds more migrate through it.

Canadian artist Wayne Terry, using an appropriate watercolour technique, has faithfully rendered the marshy terrain of Point Pelee on the new stamp. This is only the second \$5 stamp issued by Canada; the first was the 1897 issue on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.



## Léger music award

Composer and saxophonist Walter Boudreau of Montreal recently won the 1982 Jules Léger Prize for new chamber music, for a composition for eight brass instruments, *L'Odysée du Soleil*.



Walter Boudreau

The prize was initiated in 1978 by the late Governor General Jules Léger to encourage chamber music composition and performance. It includes a sculpture by Louis Archambault of Montreal and \$5 000 from the Canada Council.

Mr. Boudreau received the prize at a special concert at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa on November 21, when he conducted the Ensemble de cuivres Ville-Marie in a performance of his work.

Also included in the program, on the recommendation of the Canada Council, was a performance by the Purcell Quartet of Vancouver playing *Quartet No. 2* by Francis Chan of the University of Toronto.

## Toronto Symphony to tour Europe

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra will embark on its first European tour in nine years in February.

The orchestra will visit 17 cities in seven countries and give 20 concerts between February 27 to March 25. The tour includes performances in England, Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, the Netherlands and Czechoslovakia.

In Birmingham, England, Amsterdam and Vienna, the national radio service will broadcast the symphony's concert.

## Embassy uncovers large mural

After being hidden by paint and plaster for 30 years, a mural in the French embassy in Ottawa is being uncovered and restored.

The mural by French surrealist artist Alfred Courmes is being restored by Jean-Paul Ledeur and assistants Renata Walter and Patrice Rivaud, in collaboration with the 84-year-old artist.

## Country and town scenes

The enormous wax painting completely covers the dining room walls in the French embassy and depicts lively scenes of picnickers in the countryside, a parade through a town square, including horses and the lush scenery of southern France.

Alfred Courmes was commissioned by the government of France to paint the walls at the embassy in Ottawa when it was built in 1936. He started the work in 1938 using the ancient technique of mixing wax with colour pigments. He felt that would stand up better than oil paint in Canada's climate.

Mr. Courmes spent nearly two years working on the 120-square-metre painting, called *Happy France*, using many of his Canadian friends as models for some of



Jean-Paul Ledeur restores French mural.

the 225 figures represented in the work.

The mural began to deteriorate soon after its completion and experts speculate it was because the plaster walls were not quite dry when the painting was being made. The French government decided not to restore the work after the war, and the painting was covered with a protective layer of paint and a false white canvas wall erected to support other paintings and tapestries. Although the existence of the covered mural was common knowledge, it was only recently that the French government began the restoration.

## Pavorotti delights audience and rescues Montreal Symphony

Renowned tenor and master performer, Luciano Pavorotti, sang at a benefit for the Montreal Symphony in November and helped wipe out the orchestra's deficit. Pavorotti attracted some 15 000 people and the concert grossed nearly half a million dollars.

Pavorotti began rather shakily and appeared to have a "frog in his throat" during most of the evening but his unique stage presence and engaging personality completely won over the audience. He received a standing ovation when he walked on stage to sing his first song and after the last of his scheduled selections, the crowd rose again to applaud him.

## Scots fellowship to Canadian writer

Brian Moore has been named by the Scottish Arts Council as the 1983 winner of an important Scots literary award, the Neil Gunn International Fellowship.

The fellowship, named after the Scots novelist who died in 1973, is valued at £3 000.

Mr. Moore, who was born in Belfast in 1921, emigrated to Canada after the Second World War. He became established as a novelist during the mid-1950s with the publication of *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne*.

Since then, he has published a number of novels, stories and film scripts and has achieved international distinction as a writer of compassionate studies of society's misfits. Two of his novels, *The Luck of Ginger Coffey* and *Catholics* have been made into films, and critical studies of his work have appeared in leading journals around the world.



## News briefs

**Panarctic Oils Ltd.**, on behalf of 67 companies, has negotiated 20 exploration agreements with the federal government which will fund about one-half of a \$700-million (Cdn) program in the high Arctic over the next five years. Panarctic, owned 53 per cent by Petro-Canada, the Crown-owned oil company, will operate all the agreements, which cover about 14.37 million hectares. This is the largest package of exploration agreements concluded at one time under the new oil and gas legislation for the frontier.

According to a study for the Science Council of Canada, the private automobile is still the dominant mode of travel between Canadian cities and, in fact, is still increasing its share of the market. The growth of automobile use was halved to about 3.5 per cent annually after the 1974 oil embargo by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. But even that annual increase of about 5 billion passenger kilometres is greater than the total amount carried by the bus industry and almost double the total passenger traffic carried by rail. Despite efforts to conserve energy, the automobile has won about two-thirds of the annual growth, with the other third going to air travel.

Retail trade rose 1.1 per cent in September to a seasonally adjusted \$8.23 billion from \$8.14 billion in August, Statistics Canada reports. The latest month was up 4.3 per cent from an adjusted \$7.89 billion in September 1981.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed an \$80-million (US) line of credit with Tunisia. The arrangement will assist Canadian exporters competing for sales in Tunisia by providing Tunisian buyers with a simple and easily-accessible credit facility through the Ministry of Planning and Finance. The line of credit will parallel a \$20-million (Cdn) line of credit with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). EDC also signed a \$7-million (US) multiple disbursement agreement loan to support a sale of pulp and paper equipment and related services by various Canadian exporters to Pisa-Papel de Imprensa S.A. of Brazil. The loan will be used to finance commercial contracts up to the total value of \$8.2-million (US) to facilitate the purchases of goods and related services that will be used in the construction of a newsprint paper mill being built near Jaguariaiva in the State of Parana.



This saw-whet owl, injured from crashing into a windshield, was rescued by Bob Dale of North Gower, Ontario. The owl, now on the mend, rests on the shoulder of seven-year-old Angie Dale.

The formula for assembling a team for the prospective Canadian Football League franchise in the Maritimes has been approved in principle by CFL governors. The formula stipulates that each of the nine current CFL clubs would be allowed to protect no more than ten imports and ten non-imports from their final rosters after the 1983 season. The new club, called Atlantic Schooners, is hoping to join the CFL for the 1984 season.

There's new hope for paraplegics, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Albert Aguayo of McGill University, Montreal. Paralysis caused by damage to the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) has long been thought beyond repair. Yet in the peripheral nervous system, severed nerves can grow back and function again. Neurologists now think it may be cells surrounding these nerves that spur their regrowth. Dr. Aguayo has successfully regrown spinal nerves in rodents by bridging cut ends with a tube-like peripheral nerve sheath. The damaged nerves grew all the way through the graft. The next step is to see if they will function normally. Dr. Aguayo recently received the \$10 000 Wakeman Award "for research with the most promise for helping paraplegics".

According to *The Globe and Mail*, a weekly newspaper featuring exclusively Canadian news is now available in news boxes and smoke shops in the Tampa, Florida, area of the United States. The tabloid *Canada News* will provide two million Canadians living or vacationing in Florida with a summary of Canadian political news, sports and weather reports. The publication is edited and processed by the *St. Catharines Standard*, a Southern Ontario daily. It sells for 50 cents a copy and will also be available by subscription.

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