# Weekly Canada

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Eighty-five years ago this week... On April 27, 1896, following the resignation of Prime Mine Marzie Bowell, the Governor April 27, 1896, following the resignation of Prime Minister MacKenzie Bowell, the Governor General nister MacKenzie Charles Tupper to General of Canada invited Sir Charles Tupper to <sup>aueral</sup> of Canada invited Sir Charles Tupper to <sup>form</sup> a new government. Tupper, a former <sup>Secretary</sup> of State in the Bowell Cabinet, re-mained is of State in the following the defeat mained in power until July following the defeat of the on power until July following the June of the Conservatives by the Liberals in the June 23 electric 23 election of that year. Sir Wilfrid Laurier suc $c_{eeded}^{eeded}$  Sir Charles Tupper as Prime Minister of  $C_{anada}$ Canada.

#### Canada pledges aid for Africans at United Nations conference

Canada will contribute \$22.4 million this year to help refugees in Africa, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark Mac-Guigan said in an address to the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held in Geneva, April 9-10.

The conference was called by the United Nations General Assembly and was organized in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Canada's pledge was in response to a United Nations plea for \$1.15 billion to aid five million refugees who have been forced to flee their countries because of wars, famine and drought.

Dr. MacGuigan said that \$16 million of the Canadian contribution would be used to provide emergency food aid to countries where the refugee problem is most acute namely, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda. The remaining \$6.4 million will go to programs of international agencies "designed to respond to the highest priority refugee needs", he said.

#### **Continuing commitment**

The minister, in pointing out Canada's continuing commitment to African development over the years, said that Canada had provided development assistance to almost every African country, amounting to more than \$300 million, or 46 per cent of Canada's total bilateral aid program.

In the past year, Canada has contributed \$8.5 million in emergency food aid to help African refugees. In addition, Canada recently contributed \$1 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross's All-African Program for 1981 and has given grants totalling \$475,000 to two UN programs providing educational assistance to Southern African refugees. Canada has also increased its contribution to the UNHCR to \$4 million in 1981, in part to respond to a need for expanded African programs. At the recent Zim-

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Jnited Nations photo by Milton Grant

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan.

babwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development, Canada announced a commitment of \$50 million over five years.

Dr. MacGuigan told the conference that Canada "was responding to an African problem to which solutions can only be found in Africa, by Africans".

"We intend to play a full part in responding to the pressing humanitarian need of the refugees and in seeking solutions for underlying problems," he said.

#### Special rapporteur named

During the conference Sadruddin Aga Khan was named special rapporteur on the question of mass exoduses of populations. Dr. MacGuigan said he welcomed the appointment which came as a result of a Canadian proposal adopted on March 11 by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The resolution provided for "an individual of recognized international standing as special rapporteur" to study the question of mass

exoduses and report his conclusions and recommendations to the next commission session in early 1982.

The commission's decision culminated three years of efforts by the Canadian government to focus international attention on the causes of the massive movements of population witnessed in recent years, particularly in Southeast Asia, Afghanistan and parts of Africa and Latin America. Dr. MacGuigan said that the appointment of a special rapporteur was a first and important step towards finding a solution to the problems underlying refugee questions.

## Reporter wins award for Iran hostage escape story

Jean Pelletier, the Washington correspondent of Montreal's *La Presse* who held back the story of the escape from Iran of six U.S. diplomats until they were safely out of the country, has won the 1980 National Newspaper Award for spot news reporting, reports the *Canadian Press*.

Mr. Pelletier discovered through careful study of various reports that some people had escaped when diplomats were seized by Iranian militants in the November 4, 1979 raid on the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

But he and *La Presse* editors decided to withhold publication of his story until the six had been smuggled to freedom by Canadian embassy officials in late January 1980.



Jean Pelletier

Five of the ten categories in the thirtysecond annual Toronto Press Club awards for excellence in Canadian journalism were won by staff of the *Toronto Star*, two others went to the *Vancouver Sun* and one each to the *London Free Press* and to a freelance photographer whose winning picture was distributed by United Press Canada.

The winners were: spot news reporting – Jean Pelletier, Montreal La Presse; feature writing – Richard Gwyn, Toronto Star; enterprise reporting – Tim Padmore and Chris Gainer, Vancouver Sun; editorial writing – George Radwanski, Toronto Star; critical writing – William Littler, Toronto Star; column writing – Michele Landsberg, Toronto Star; sports writing – Archie McDonald, Vancouver Sun; spot news photography – Dick Wallace, London Free Press; feature photography – Peter Martin, United Press Canada; and cartooning – Victor Roschkov, Toronto Star.

#### **Competition policy examined**

The effectiveness of the federal government's competition policy in Canada falls well short of its potential and requires changes in a number of areas, according to a report released by federal Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister André Ouellet.

Entitled The Administration and Enforcement of Competition Policy in Canada: 1960/61-1974/75, an application of performance measurement, the report includes recommendations for higher fines for contraventions of the Combines Investigation Act, certain shifts in responsibilities for administration of the act, a revision of arrangements with respect to criminal prosecutions, and changes in the administration and enforcement of the act.

According to the report implementation of its recommendations would increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the administration and enforcement of competition policy in Canada, and would thus increase over-all competition in Canadian business.

The report examined performance and effectiveness of the four bodies responsible for administering the Combines Investigation Act: the Director of Investigation and Research, the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, the Attorney General of Canada and the judiciary.

#### Acid-rain control hope

The federal government has announceu a major coal utilization project which <sup>js</sup> expected to be beneficial in controll<sup>ing</sup> acid rain.

Under the program, funded jointly by the Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, and National Defence, heating boilers will be installed at the Canadian Forces Base at Summerside, Prince Edward Island.

The \$13.1-million project will replace two obsolete heating boilers at the base with modern boilers that use a pioneer fluidized bed combustion process. In addition to providing a more efficient heating system for the base, the conver sion will allow the system to burn a low quality, high-sulphur coal, while suppressing emissions of pollutants that cause acid rain. In a demonstration of their flexibility in using a variety of energy sources, the boilers will also use wood chips from Prince Edward Island.

The program will demonstrate that fluidized bed combustion technology can be used in an efficient, reliable, and eco nomical manner in large industrial projects. The information garnered from the project will be freely available to industry and the general public. It will also serve as Canada's contribution to the International Energy Agency's information exchange agreement on atmospheric fluidir ed bed combustion.

In fluidized bed combustion, air <sup>b</sup> blasted through the bottom of a furnace chamber filled with inert, granular material such as sand or limestone. The air, which is pre-heated, lifts the granular material from the bed into a continuous churning motion, commonly called fluidized state. The fuel (in this case coal or wood) is fed into the bed. Heated by contact with the inert material, the fuel burns, releasing heat that is extracted raise steam.

The major advantage of fluidized bed combustion is that a wide variety of fuels can be used in an environmentally accept able manner. If limestone is added as granular material, it reacts with the sub phur dioxide emission, a major source of acid rain.

Because combustion in these ne<sup>a</sup> boilers occurs at much lower temperatures than in conventional boilers, nirro gen oxide emissions (another major source of acid rain) are reduced.

#### April 29, 1981

## Canadian cities join Intelpost

Intelpost, Canada's electronic and satellite mail link, was recently expanded across Canada.

Montreal, Ottawa, Halifax, Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton have officially joined the Intelpost link operating between Toronto, and cities in England, Europe and the United States.

A joint venture between Canada Post, CNCP Telecommunications and Teleglobe Canada, Intelpost is a high-speed facsimile service which allows Canadians to send clear copies of documents across Canada and overseas.

Located at main postal facilities, Intelpost uses CNCP's microwave network and Teleglobe Canada's international satellite facilities to transmit letters, charts and other documents in seconds.

Intelpost handles almost any communication that is printed, typed, handwritten, drawn or photocopied onto a sheet of paper no smaller than five inches by five inches (127 mm by 127 mm) and no larger than eight-and-a-half inches by 14 inches (216 mm by 356 mm).

Documents transmitted electronically by the new domestic Intelpost service are handled over the coast-to-coast microwave network of CNCP Telecommunications.

The 16,000-kilometre CNCP network relays a vast amount of Telex and other written messages, computer data, and voice and facsimile signals by means of microwave towers located every 50 or 60 kilometres from coast to coast.

To provide the domestic Intelpost ser-



The domestic system uses a coast-to-coast network of microwave towers.



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Intelpost centres are located in main postal facilities in Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Halifax.

vice, CNCP has installed its Infocourier facsimile transmitting and receiving terminals in post offices in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.

These units can transmit a page of 350 words in about 25 seconds – much faster than the office copiers which use telephones and telephone lines.

Messages sent by Intelpost cost \$4 a page in Canada and \$5 a page internationally and can be picked up in 30 minutes.

Introduced in June 1980, between London, England and Toronto, Intelpost was the first international electronic mail service of its kind. Washington, New York, Berne, Switzerland, and Amsterdam, the Netherlands, have since joined the system. The addition of Vancouver to the system has been delayed by a labour dispute in the British Columbia telephone system and will take place as soon as possible.

## Mitel to open plants in Britain and United States

Mitel Corporation of Ottawa will open two new plants within the next two years. The company will open a plant later this year in Newport, South Wales to be followed by a manufacturing plant in Burlington, Vermont next year.

Mitel already has two other British plants — in England and Ireland. Although details will not be announced until later, sources speculate that the new British plant could employ 3,000 employees by 1990.

The British facility - expected to be about 250,000 square feet - will be almost 20 times larger than the two earlier British plants.

It will produce most of the telephone switching equipment Mitel is building under a \$14-million contract with British Telecom. When it is fully operational, it will also be the major manufacturing centre for all Mitel telecommunications equipment sold in Europe.

Production was to begin this month in temporary facilities in Chepstow, about 30 miles from Newport, and will move to the new quarters when they are completed later this year.

The \$5-million U.S. plant will be the company's tenth world-wide and the second in the Vermont area.

It will carry out some of the final packaging and assembly of silicon chips used in Mitel's telephone switching.

The highly-successful firm, just eight years old, has facilities across Canada and the United States, in Denmark and Hong Kong, and will soon open an office in Japan.

#### Biotechnology: a development plan for Canada

Canada needs to encourage the establishment of biotechnology industries and the supporting scientific and technical infrastructures, according to the recently released report of the federal Task Force on Biotechnology.

Excerpts from the report entitled, Biotechnology: A Development Plan, follow:

Biotechnology represents an important element in Canada's future industrial and economic development. The development of biotechnology is just beginning and the major economic impact of its applications will probably not be seen for close to a decade. Nevertheless, it is vitally important to implement, at this stage in Canada's effort in biotechnology, a plan of development which will ensure that this country may vigorously pursue appropriate biotechnological opportunities and at the same time be in a position to capitalize upon developments in other countries.

The objective of the proposed biotechnology development plan is to create in Canada the climate which will encourage the establishment and growth of a variety of industries which are built upon biotechnology. To achieve this objective it is necessary to create a strong, viable research and development infrastructure with which to support an emerging biotechnological industry.

#### Long-term commitment required

The long-term nature of the research and development activity required for the successful exploitation of biotechnology together with the perceived impact which this area of technology could have upon Canada's industrial future, underscore the importance of developing a national strategy embodying long-term commitments to biotechnology by all sectors. While industries, universities and governments, both federal and provincial have significant roles to play in working together towards the promotion and development of biotechnology in Canada, it is the responsibility of the federal government to take the lead in co-ordinating and catalyzing the national commitment. However, the nature of biotechnology as an area of high technology is such that, unless a long-term approach and commitment are made by each sector, any shortterm strategies or token activities may impede rather than promote this area of technology in Canada.

The lack of a significant biotechnological industry in Canada requires that



A strong research and development infrastructure is needed to support a biotechnological industry.

fundamental measures must be instituted at this stage in order to encourage the formation of this industry and to nurture it during its early years. Biotechnology, as an area of high technology, offers the opportunity for the development of new industries as well as the revitalization of existing ones. Therefore, a variety of measures must be initiated in order to ensure that the entire range of industrial activity, from research and development to commercialization, is vigorously pursued.

For an established company, one which is profitable and therefore paying taxes, tax write-offs for research and development investment are recommended. For a new, developing company, direct government financial assistance, government procurement as well as tax shelters to make available venture capital for biotechnology, would seem to be most appropriate.

Technology transfer between sectors represents an important element in the development of a Canadian biotechnological industry. Existing government programs which promote technology transfer will be important factors. Technology transfer is a people-oriented activity, therefore, a strategy which encourages the continued interaction between scientists, technologists and industrialists will greatly enhance the potential for effective technology transfer and thereby enhance the degree of industrial ap plication.

#### Interdisciplinary science base

An interdisciplinary science base is the foundation of the techniques comprising biotechnology. The scientific effort in Canadian universities and government establishments has been badly eroded over the past decade. A major long-term financial commitment from both federal and provincial sources must be forth coming to ensure that Canada can actively participate in rapid biotechnological advances.

It will be important, however, to ensure that scientific development in Canada is properly nurtured. Biotechnology is an interdisciplinary area and the scientific knowledge for its development musicome from an interdisciplinary environment. Moreover, the group approach to scientific and technical developments in biotechnology must be fostered in order to guarantee the creation of the appropriate critical masses upon which any true development can grow.

The successful development of a Caradian biotechnological industry and the accompanying research capacity will depend largely upon the availability appropriate manpower. Unless sufficient appropriately trained people are avaiable, the demand which is already beginning to emerge in Canada will have to its satisfied from foreign sources. Reliance on other countries, however, for the sup ply of biotechnological manpower will not be practical in the long term because of the rapid expansion of biotechnological increase in the demand for manpower. As the Canadian biotechnological in antipotechnological manpower.

As the Canadian biotechnologie tail dustry develops, demands for certain skills will increase. Of particular need will be interdisciplinary skills which will provide graduates from both the universitie and technical colleges with the flexibility to adapt and thus contribute to the broad range of opportunities presented by bit technology.

Shortages in many of the skills required for biotechnological development at

already apparent in Canada. Until a sufficient domestic supply of such people becomes available, immigration priorities must be established to ensure the rapid entry of designated individuals crucial to the build-up of a Canadian biotechnological manpower capacity.

Training of students is only one component of the biotechnology manpower picture. Existing scientists and technologists must be offered the opportunity to acquire new skills relevant to biotechnology and its developments.

There are many industrial opportunities presently offered by biotechnology. As biotechnology matures, there will undoubtedly be many more opportunities presented; this explains why so much long-term investment capital is currently being directed into building up biotechnology capacity throughout the world.

"The Task Force feels that Canada should pay special attention to biotechnological developments related to Canada's resource sectors, with particular emphasis placed on nitrogen fixation, novel aspects of cellulose utilization, plant strain development, treatment and utilization of wastes, and mineral leaching and metal recovery; and the development of needed health care products as necessary elements in the country's future social as well as economic development.

## Regulation

...For the future development of biotechnology in Canada, it may be necessary to enact, modify or eliminate certain regulations or legislation which, if not addressed, will leave Canada at a serious disadvantage relative to the rest of the world with respect to industrial investment in and exploitation of biotechnology....

Bill C-32 is a piece of legislation presently before Parliament, which, if

The Task Force on Biotechnology, chaired by Dr. Maurice Brossard at the Institute Armand-Frappier in Montreal, was set up by the federal government last June to investigate the opportunities offered to Canada by biotechnology. Biotechnology is the use of biological processes to produce goods and services and is expected to have a significant impact on the agricultural, food, forestry, energy, health, mining and chemical sectors within the next decade. enacted, would provide the plant breeder or developer with control over the multiplication and sale of reproductive material. These rights would then be similar to those accorded a patent or copyright. The intent of this legislation, which is similar to that currently in place in other countries, is to encourage greater investment activity in plant breeding in both the private and public sectors.

Biotechnology, which will have a major impact on the development of new plant varieties, could receive considerable impetus from the adoption of this legislation. However, the compulsory licensing provision of the Bill could negate any positive intention of the Bill towards industrial development, and as a consequence would most certainly inhibit, if not eliminate, this high priority area of biotechnological development for Canada.

Guidelines for the handling of recombinant DNA molecules, animal viruses and cells, currently administered by the Medical Research Council, reflect the current state of knowledge surrounding these materials. As new knowledge has surfaced, these guidelines have, through a flexible system of modification, evolved accordingly. Legislation embodying these guidelines would reduce the present flexibility and would be inadvisable in an area of science and technology experiencing rapid change.

Since the guidelines are not directly binding upon industry, a system of voluntary compliance should be considered, and could be made mandatory for the receipt of government assistance.

#### International collaboration

World-wide escalation of investment in biotechnology began about a decade ago, but the greatest acceleration has come within the last five years. West Germany, the United States and Japan have been the leaders in this activity, but recent impetus has also been evident in Britain, France, Scandinavia, Switzerland and New Zealand among others. It is vitally important for Canada to have access to this activity and at the same time to be able to contribute to it. The progress of biotechnology in Canada will be accelerated through the furtherance of international collaborations and measures must therefore be instituted to facilitate all forms of interchange between scientists, technologists and planners from Canada and the rest of the world.

In addition, Canada's participation in



Biotechnological techniques include genetic engineering; enzymes and enzyme systems, and fused cell techniques.

Third World development could be furthered through collaboration with developing nations on biotechnological applications in food and energy production, as well as other areas of natural resource utilization.

#### National organization

In order to facilitate the implementation and operation of a development plan for biotechnology in Canada, a national organization must be established to:

oversee, co-ordinate and evaluate federal resource allocations in biotechnology;
maintain contact with global developments in biotechnology;

- provide advice to the federal government on a range of issues related to biotechnology development (legislation, international commitments, etc.);

 ensure a flexibility in the development plan to allow it to be modified as circumstances dictate; and

 provide, to all sectors, information and guidance on Canadian programs and activities in biotechnology.

It is important that this organization include industrial representation and be open to advice from all interested parties. At the beginning, the pathways of advice could take the form of national symposia and later evolve into a series of advisory boards.

#### Stamp exhibition slated for Toronto

Canada Post and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada will co-sponsor an international philatelic youth exhibition, entitled Canada 82, to be held May 20-24, 1982 in Toronto.

"I welcome the opportunity of having Canada Post work with the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, so that together we can further the interest of our youth in the fascinating world of stamp collecting and develop the junior collector through the challenge of national and international class competitions," said Postmaster-General André Ouellet in making the announcement.

Since 1969, the International Youth Commission of the Fédération Internationale Philatélique (FIP) has designated a member country to host this exhibition, which takes place every two years. Luxembourg, Norway, France, Bulgaria and the Netherlands have hosted past exhibitions, attracting thousands of young people as well as a number of adults who are interested in stamp collecting.

#### First outside Europe

This will be the first international philatelic youth exhibition to be held outside continental Europe. It will feature stamp displays by postal administrations from around the world as well as educational exhibits of general interest.

To commemorate the exhibition, Canada Post plans to issue specially designed souvenir sheets of postage stamps.

Canada Post suggests that young collectors and junior stamp clubs start planning their exhibits. They will have many opportunities to participate by exhibiting in the international as well as the national classes of competition.



INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC YOUTH **EXHIBITION** 

L'EXPOSITION PHILATELIQUE MONDIALE DE LA JEUNESSE

#### Convention centres down east

Two Maritime cities will receive federal financing totalling \$5.5 million to build downtown convention centre-hotel developments.

Halifax and Charlottetown will get a share of the \$15 million the federal government sets aside annually to help cities build convention centres.

In Charlottetown a \$3.8-million grant for the construction of a \$28.2-million complex was announced by federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Herb Gray.

Labour Minister Gerald Regan said the federal cabinet had approved a \$2.75million contribution towards construction of Nova Scotia Place, a cultural and convention facility.

Cramped convention space and hotel accommodations have kept Maritime cities out of the bidding for large conventions, and officials in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are optimistic the market will be big enough to support centres in both provincial capitals.

In fact, conventions for both centres have already been booked in advance of construction. The Charlottetown facility, being built by the private investment group of Dale Corporation, will house a 15,160-square-foot convention floor, 200-room hotel with a world-class rating, squash, tennis and racquetball courts, and an Olympic-size pool. Plans for the Halifax project are in the preliminary stages, but Mayor Ron Wallace said the publicly-owned centre, to cost \$11 million would double the city's convention space.

#### Speedskater wins title

Speedskater Benoit Baril of Quebec City recently won the men's World Short Track Championship held in Neudon-La-Foret, France.

The 20-year-old unseated defending champion Gaetan Boucher in the 11country event. Baril finished with 12 points, Boucher placed second with eight points. Louis Baril, Benoit's brother was fourth with six points.

Louise Begin of Quebec City placed third in the women's over-all crown with seven points. The event was the first officially-recognized short track championship and 110 skaters from 11 countries participated.

#### Rare reptile romance

A love match may be in the offing, if a distance of hundreds of kilometres and other uncertainties can be overcome to bring two rare gavials together, reports the Canadian Press.

Only four gavials are known to exist in North America - two males in Picton near Belleville, Ontario and two females in the southern United States.

Described as an extremely endangered species, the gavial is a crocodile-like creature with a long, slender snout somewhat resembling a baton. It was once a flourishing reptile from India, a hunter of fish in swift rivers, but its numbers have declined to eight or nine in all of the Western Hemisphere.

The Reptile Breeding Foundation in Picton, which acquired its two males in 1972, is eager to lend them to the Atlanta Zoo in Georgia, which has one female on hand and another available on loan from a Florida park.

The males would go to the females, says Tom Huff, director of the Picton foundation. "They have (in Atlanta) the best facilities to breed the animals in cap tivity, and we will send ours along if we can obtain the proper permit.

"To my knowledge, no gavials have been bred in captivity before. But I think they can be.'

Transport of such creatures across borders is governed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and requires special permits.

#### **Rare species**

"As a species, the gavial is "one of the rarest on the face of the earth. I doubt there are more than 50 of them left in the world," said Mr. Huff.

If a breeding loan is made with the Atlanta Zoo, the foundation will receive half the offspring. It acquired the two males, both about two metres long, fron private individuals in the United States, for about \$5,000 each.

In Atlanta, zoo curator Howard Hun is equally enthusiastic about a love match "It's ridiculous to have two males in Can ada and two females down here and not get them together," he said.

If a long-term success can be made of gavial breeding. Mr. Huff said the foundation tion probably would arrange for some future mates to return to the wilds India as well as to zoos across the country

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## News of the arts

### Art by disabled tours Europe

As part of the International Year of Disabled Persons, a Canadian exhibition entitled, Art and the Handicapped, is currently on tour in Europe.

The exhibition, organized by Montreal's Lethbridge Rehabilitation Centre, opened in February in the Maison de la culture in Ajaccio, Corsica. It consists of 40 works done by physically and mentally handicapped persons participating in the art therapy workshop of the Lethbridge Centre. A slide show on the workshop and a film, Shadows and Light, produced by the art and communications students of Montreal's Concordia University, is being presented along with the exhibition.

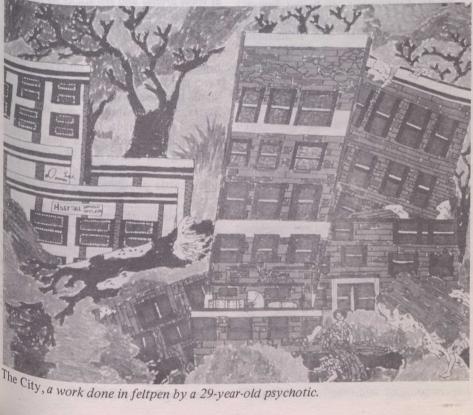
The workshop was set up nine years <sup>ago</sup> by Maurice Brault, who uses drawing to get his students to express themselves and tell about their development in picture form. "The purpose of art therapy is first and foremost to help the Patient express the inner image of the dream, in developing a creative action more or less paralyzed by physical constraints or psychological fixations. This means of exploration can also be a diagnostic instrument for psychiatrists and psychologists," explained Brault. He became aware of the widespread interest



An oil pastel by a 63-year-old woman who suffered brain-damage in an accident.

in his method at symposiums and seminars organized during the Canadian tour of the exhibition. Art students, for example, see in it a new avenue of study, and rehabilitation specialists view it as a means of following their clients' development.

Brault said that his approach, using drawing, painting, puppets and potter's



clay, can be used by anyone to express himself. "It is important not to confuse a means of expression with the use of arts and crafts or recreational projects," he said.

Three Canadian universities, Concordia University, the University of Toronto and the University of Victoria, are already training therapists to use this technique.

After its stop in Ajaccio, the exhibition travelled to the Cultural Centre of Marseille in March, and is currently in Aix-en-Provence. The exhibition will continue onto Lausanne, Switzerland in May. the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris in June and Arc-et-Senans, France in July and August. The exhibition is also expected to be present in July at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization headquarters in Paris. The tour is receiving financial assistance from the National Museum of Canada and the Department of External Affairs.

Governor-General Edward Schreyer recently opened the exhibition, Treasures of Ancient Nigeria: Legacy of 2,000 Years, at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. Nigerian High Commissioner to Canada Oladele Akadiri also officiated at the opening of the exhibition, which comprises 100 objects including bronze plaques from the royal courts of Benin and the earliest West African art discovered by recent archaeology.

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## News briefs

Energy Minister Marc Lalonde has announced the establishment of a certification requirement for residential insulation contractors performing work under the Canadian Home Insulation Programs, CHIP and the new SuperCHIP. The requirement is designed to improve the effectiveness of the federally funded insulation programs. Contractors performing work under these programs and their counterparts in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the Home Insulation Program, will be required to be certified by the Canadian General Standards Board.

More than 40 per cent of Canadians now belong to credit unions and caisses populaires, up from 33 per cent in 1975, according to statistics compiled by the Canadian Co-operative Credit Society Limited. Credit union membership is growing particularly quickly in the western provinces. Membership in British Columbia rose by 61.7 per cent over the five years, and the increase in Alberta was 87.4 per cent.

Secretary of State Francis Fox has announced a \$3 million increase in the budget of the Women's Program in his department, which will triple the program's total funds to \$4.1 million. The women's program was established in 1973 to promote social development and voluntary organizations for the support of advocacy, skill development, research, information exchange, co-ordination and public education on the status of women.

Mobil Oil has signed a contract for the purchase of one de Havilland Canada DASH-7 and has optioned a second. The DASH-7 will be used to support exploration, development and production activities in Southeast Asian oil fields. Mobil has operated *Twin Otters* in Southeast Asia and throughout the world for the past 12 years.

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

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em portugés sob o título Notícias do Canadá. Bell Canada handled more than 12 billion local calls and close to 700 million long distance messages during 1980, according to the company's 1980 annual report. Some 2.2 million telephones were connected and 1.9 million disconnected during 1980, for a net gain of 321,000 telephones. Approximately \$185 million was spent in 1980 on Bell's nonurban service improvement program, one of the company's largest single items in its construction program, designed to provide and improve services in non-urban areas.

The Canadian Armed Forces has awarded Bombardier Inc. of Montreal, Quebec, a \$150-million contract for the purchase of 2,767 military trucks. The contract calls for delivery of the first vehicles by the end of this year and a completion date of May 1984.

Massey-Ferguson Limited has received a \$41-million (U.S.) order from Saudi Arabia for tractors and farm implements. The order is for 2,300 tractors and 8,500 Massey implements, such as ploughs, tillers and trailers.

SED Systems Limited of Saskatoon is developing a low-cost, two-way telecommunications service for use in remote areas. Michael Hodson, company president, said plans are to incorporate ground stations with satellites where overland telephone line service is impractical.

**Potash Corporation** of Saskatchewan had a profit of \$167.5 million in 1980, according to chairman Roy Romanow. Mr. Romanow said that a dividend will be paid for the first time in its five-year history.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced the signing of an \$18.5-million (U.S.) financing agreement to support a \$23.1-million (Cdn.) sale by de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited of Downsview, Ontario to Cameroun. The transaction involves the sale of two DHC-50 Buffalo aircraft, spare parts, and product support services. The sale will generate some 400 man-years of employment at de Havilland and its suppliers.

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has announced that projects involving 198 senior citizens groups across Canada will receive \$1,387,489 in federal funds. Over 25,000 participants are directly involved. The funds are made available through the department's New Horizons program.

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has announced additional cattle import Allan Cross displays one of the deck

chairs made of broken hockey sticks by his industrial arts students at the Friend ship School for the Retarded in St. Thomas, Ontario. The 36 students have elevated the hockey sticks to a new arl form. With a little work, pieces of shat tered ash make comfortable deck chairs. And the price is right - \$10, compared to \$30 for similar chairs at conventional retail outlets. The funds from the sales of the chairs are used for outings, put chase of equipment and other school needs. Broken hockey sticks are collected at local arenas and ten sticks go into each chair. To retain the novelty, brand names are left on the sticks.

regulations to strengthen the federal brucellosis eradication program. Cattle vaccinated against brucellosis under the whole-herd vaccination plan in the United States, as of April 1, are not being allowed into Canada. In Canada, the number of cattle herds under quarantine is declining. On March 1, 1981 there were 88 herds – 0.3 per cent of the total Caradian cattle population – under quarant tine.

A "plastic cheque" or "debit card" system, said to be the first in Canada, w be introduced by Alberta and Saskat chewan credit unions in 1982. Rather than creating loans as with credit cards, the system will allow customers to have purchase charges directly withdrawn from their savings or chequing accounts, ac cording to B. Johnson, general manager of Credit Union Central of Alberta. be accounts are overdrawn, loans can be automatically created, although the scheme will be optional.