

# CANADA REPORTS

SUMMER 1988



Canada in the  
United Nations

**2** Editor's Note

---

**3** A Commitment to Multilateralism: Canada in an Interdependent World

---

**5** United Nations Reform

---

**6** Three Chances for Canada

---

**8** Soldiers of Peace

---

**10** For a More Humane World

---

**12** African Recovery Program

---

**13** Neuroscience: "The Brain Deboggles"

---

**15** Canadian Sophistication on the Seine

---

**16** Canadian Fashion Comes of Age

---

**20** Robert Lepage: Pushing the Boundaries of Creativity

---

**21** John Kim Bell: A Man with a Mission

---

**22** Ottawa: A Capital Lifestyle

---

**24** Cross Canada Currents

**T**here is an old story about three workers who were cutting great blocks of stone. One day they were asked by a passerby what they were doing. The first answered, "Cutting stone," the second, "Earning my wage," but the third replied, "Building a cathedral." This last reply, in essence, reflects the animating spirit of the United Nations (UN) — its vision, idealism and faith in a better tomorrow.

Far too often, dreams are lost in the need to deal with reality's harsh problems. But dreams and reality need not be mutually exclusive. Instead, to improve the world, there must be a fusion of vision with practical considerations. The third worker's contribution to the labour is as real and concrete as the others, but it is greater because it is tempered with care and commitment and shaped with a vision of the future.

It takes courage to apply one's dreams to reality, but it is this very vision which founded the United Nations, and which, over the years, has led it to conquer social injustices, bring peace to war-torn countries and feed the starving. The UN's broad and caring vision is one the world desperately needs, and despite its many problems, its long list of accomplishments in realizing its dreams is impressive.

Canada was one of the strongest supporters of the UN at its founding more than 40 years ago, and remains so today. The country's continued provision of innovative ideas, personnel and funds to the institution, to its specialized agencies and to its world programs is proof of an enduring commitment to multilateralism. Canadian leadership in UN peacekeeping operations, disarmament and arms control initiatives, humanitarian relief efforts,

human rights and environmental issues is second to none. Yet, Canada has not lost sight of the fact that dreams are pursued in a world of practicalities and therefore strongly supports the ongoing process of UN reform and change.

Realizing the United Nations' vision will be a difficult task. But its dream to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, reaffirm faith in human dignity, practise tolerance, and promote the social and economic advancement of all is the highest expression of human aspiration and dedication. As such, it is too valuable and too needed to be allowed to fail.

# Canada

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

Telex: 053-3745

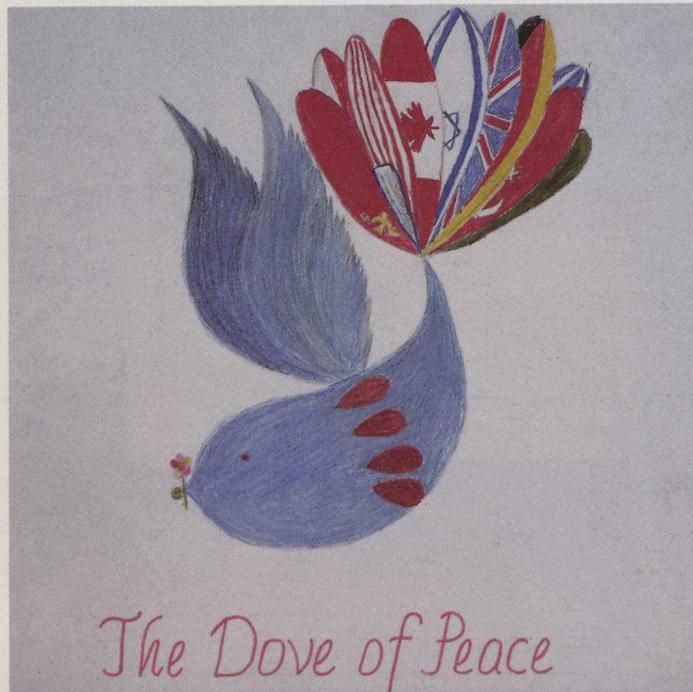
Editor-in-Chief:  
Irenka Farmilo

Editors:  
Mary Anne Dehler,  
Leeann McKechnie

Comments or suggestions from readers are welcome. A credit is requested for any material reprinted.

*Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Reportage Canada.*

*Esta publicación es disponible en español con el título Reportaje Canadá.*



# A Commitment to Multilateralism: Canada in an Interdependent World

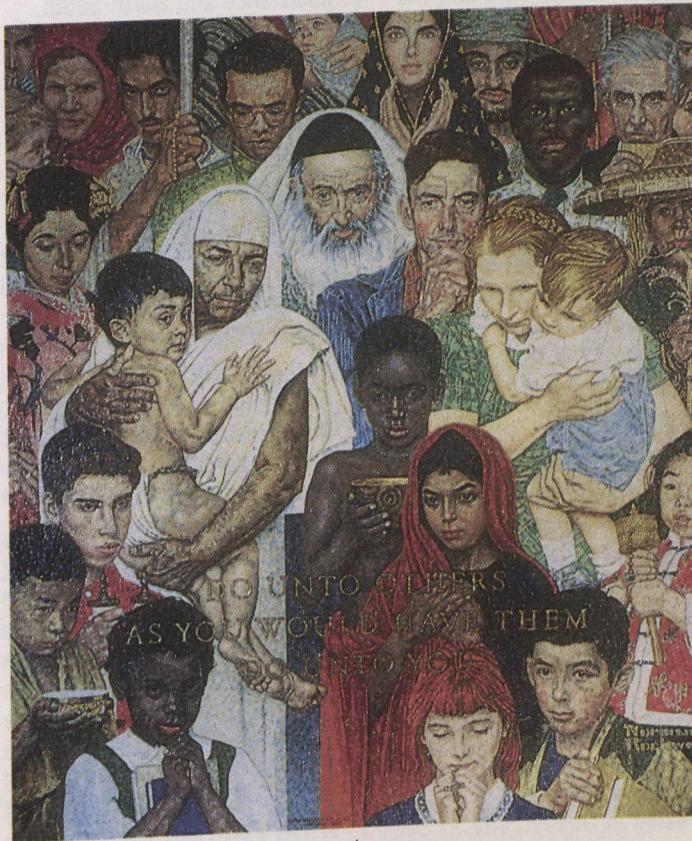
**W**e are a young nation but an old democracy. We are vast geographically and small in population. We speak two of the world's principal languages. We have been formed, in part, by the thought and the values of our French and British forebears. Our culture has been enriched by our native peoples and by immigrants from every land. Our vision of the world illumines our achievements and sustains our aspirations: tolerance, justice, generosity, and a desire for peace.

— Secretary of State for  
External Affairs  
Joe Clark

As a multicultural society shaped by international events and influences, Canadians have always possessed an international outlook. Proud of their diversity, they nevertheless realize the necessity for common purpose and action.

For Canadians, multilateralism is both an instinct and a vocation and they expect their government to play an active and positive multilateral role. It therefore comes as no surprise that "constructive internationalism" demonstrated through a deep and abiding commitment to the United Nations and the multilateral system represents the cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy.

The challenges of global interdependence necessitate multilateral co-operation. This may be an obvious truism, but it takes enormous skill,



UN Photo 169325

together with tenacity and strength of purpose, to put it into practice. Canada has attempted to meet the challenge by developing and maintaining ties with a wide variety of states both bilaterally and through its membership in key multilateral associations.

By virtue of its unique cultural heritage and commitment to multilateralism, Canada is the only member of the United Nations that combines membership in the Commonwealth, la Francophonie and the Economic Summit Seven. In fact, during the 10 months beginning in September 1987, Canada welcomed heads of state and governments from many countries as it hosted the Commonwealth, la Francophonie and the Economic Summit.

**The United Nations:** reaffirming faith in the dignity of all people.

The Commonwealth and la Francophonie form an important part of Canada's network of international linkages. Each has its own personality, traditions and style. The Commonwealth, for instance, has been described as a bridge of hope spanning apparently irreconcilable differences. Within the Commonwealth, Canada has long been recognized as an honest broker, interested in promoting informal discussions which often lead to consensus and common action.

At the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Vancouver in October 1987, Canada once again focused its efforts in iden-

tifying effective and appropriate measures aimed at ending the abhorrent practice of *apartheid* in South Africa.

La Francophonie brings together more than 40 countries united by their common usage of the French language. During the Quebec City Summit in September 1987, members laid the groundwork to expand the areas for fruitful co-operation in developing programs in education, culture, communications and energy. In chairing the Comité du Suivi, Canada is involved closely in efforts to develop and implement these programs.

Canada also participates in the annual Economic Summit of Western industrialized nations. At the most recent meeting in Toronto in June 1988, Canada again took the opportunity to share its perspective on international economic trends and to broaden the consensus on the macro-economic measures required to ensure continued world financial stability along with economic growth and development.

## Canada in the United Nations

At the centre of Canada's multilateral network lies the United Nations. Canada has been a strong and faithful supporter of the organization since its establishment.

In 1945, Canada sent a very high-level delegation including the then Prime Minister MacKenzie King and two future prime ministers, Louis St. Laurent and Lester B. Pearson, to the San Francisco

Conference where the Charter of the United Nations was drafted. Canada took an active role in defining the mandate and ensuring the strength of the General Assembly, the UN Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies. The delegation worked tirelessly to create an international body that would prevent military conflict by removing its underlying social and economic causes.

Canada immediately earned a solid reputation as an objective mediator and an effective conciliator capable of identifying common ground and purpose in the midst of diversity. In 1955 for example, Canada introduced the resolution which broke the logjam which had blocked the admission of new members.

Through its participation in peacekeeping efforts, Canada has demonstrated the important and often critical role which a "middle power" can play in maintaining international peace and security. Canada's role in developing a model for regional peacekeeping serves as one of the most

important and creative diplomatic achievements in the post-war era. While Canada's leading role in the Suez Crisis is well known, during the past four decades more than 75 000 Canadians have donned the blue beret to serve in UN peacekeeping forces in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

---

*In the belief that international peace and security could best be served through economic and social development, Canada has been a strong advocate and major contributor to the work of the many UN specialized agencies concerned with these matters.*

---

In the belief that international peace and security could best be served through economic and social development, Canada has been a strong advocate and major contributor to the work of the many UN specialized agencies concerned with these matters. The Food and Agricultural Organization was in fact created in Quebec City.

As membership in the United Nations increased rapidly with the emergence of many newly independent nations, Canada encouraged additional efforts to respond to the special needs of these new members. Canada has established a solid record in development assistance and North-South co-operation. As evidence of this commitment, Canada is currently the seventh-largest contributor on a per capita basis to the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the fourth-largest in absolute terms.

### A Faithful Friend

In recent years, critics have increasingly pointed to the frailties and the shortcomings of the United Nations. In the face of financial crises and decreasing confidence in the organization, Canadians have held fast and defended the UN's positive record of contributions.

Flags of member nations line the walkway of UN headquarters in New York City.

At the 1985 national convention of the UN Association of the United States, Canadian Ambassador to the UN Stephen Lewis called for a concerted campaign to defend and strengthen the UN: "Sure it's frustrating, sure it's difficult . . . But it doesn't for a moment . . . invalidate the tremendous contribution which the United Nations makes; it doesn't for a moment render us impotent; it doesn't for a moment diminish the value of working to reinforce the strengths of the United Nations."

Canada has also promoted concrete measures to protect the UN from present and future financial storms. It has offered a range of innovative budgetary and financial proposals; it has actively participated in exercises to reform, to rationalize, and to improve the economic and social structure of the UN. Above all, Canadians are working to make the United Nations a more effective and more dynamic political, economic, and social force for the 1990s.

While Canadians are not oblivious to the problems and shortcomings of the UN, they prefer to focus on its successes: in containing hostilities through its peacekeeping forces, in assisting countries in achieving independence, in providing refugees with shelter and relief, in saving millions of children from starvation, and in building bridges of goodwill between people from every part of the world.

Stephen Lewis has described Canada as middle-power with a "lasting and visceral commitment to multilateralism which is ingrained in and endemic to the Canadian character." In the years ahead, through the United Nations and the multilateral system as a whole, Canada will continue to welcome every opportunity to promote peace, harmony and security for all members of the world community.



UN Photo 169768

# United Nations Reform

Canadians see the United Nations as a visionary global enterprise. These three words — *vision, global, enterprise* — symbolize the UN, underline its importance, and explain the need for attention and reform.

First and foremost the United Nations was based on a vision. It was created over 40 years ago to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in human dignity, to practise tolerance, and to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples. The UN's founders wanted to build a better world at peace with itself. Although they realized that their goal was ambitious, they also knew that it was essential if the world was to become a better and more secure place.

The years since then have witnessed a vast increase in the UN's concerns, activities and membership. Through it all, however, the United Nations has remained the global amphitheatre for considering and discussing the ideas, beliefs, proposals and policies promoted by its various members. Since the 1960s, membership has grown from 45 to 159; today, virtually every country belongs to the organization. The UN system has yet to recover fully from this rapid expansion in membership and must learn to function with the cohesion and sense of purpose required to meet the goals of its Charter.

The United Nations, as an enterprise, has not always been successful in translating its vision into reality. Unfortunately, one sometimes finds gaps, confusion, overlaps, and lack of common purpose and direction. In addition, the UN has taken a long time to realize that merely throwing money at a problem will not resolve it. Understanding political, economic, and social phenomena and learning to influence them constructively is a tasking enterprise.

Why is reform necessary? Because, from time to time, the vision has to be rekindled, the world community reunited, and the enterprise reactivated. In its 40 years of existence, the UN has successfully met numerous challenges, but none, apparently, as deep and potentially as divisive as the current financial and confidence crisis.

At first, the crisis provoked shock, dismay, and discouragement. UN supporters, however, quickly rallied to its defence. The word *reform* began to echo in the corridors of UN headquarters in New York City and gradually around the world. At the 40th General Assembly in 1985, resolutions were drafted by Canada, Japan, Austria, and the group of non-aligned countries, the G-77. The reform movement gained momentum and 18 experts were appointed to draft a report and launch the reform process.

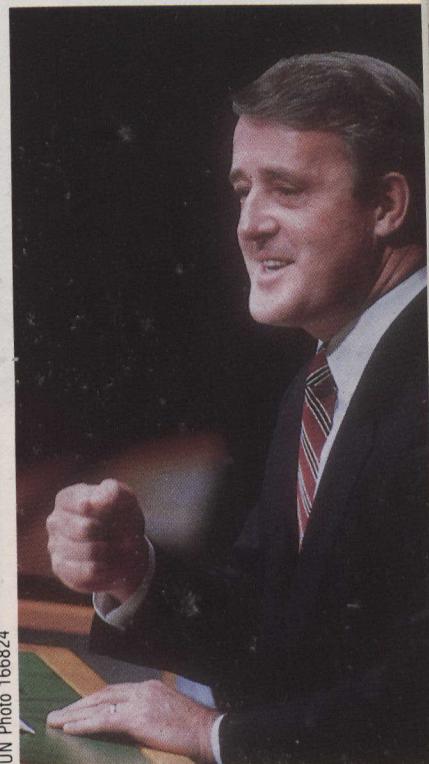
Over the past two and a half years, Canada has devoted considerable time and attention to the ongoing process of repair and renewal of the UN. Reform efforts now extend to four fields:

■ First, to resolve the financial crisis, emphasis has been placed on restraint and on improving budgetary and financial practices. Canada has devised a full set of budgetary systems and procedures that promise the UN greater financial stability and monetary effectiveness.

■ Second, the process of setting priorities and making decisions has also been reviewed. The conditions are now set for the 34 members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) to address these problems. Canada is working closely with other members of the CPC to strengthen and re-invigorate the UN.

■ Third, the Special Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is working to simplify and rationalize the structure of the UN in the economic and social fields. Canada was among the first to suggest how the commission could undertake its task and assisted ECOSOC in assuming its responsibility for overseeing the entire economic and social sectors. Although not yet complete, this exercise shows great promise and could do much to revitalize a key dimension of the promise of the UN Charter.

■ Finally, the specialized agencies — the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the Food and Agriculture Organization; the World Health Organization; and others — have embarked on a process to reduce



UN Photo 166824

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney: a strong supporter of UN reform.

expenditures, to improve programs and to set new and effective directions. In this area too, Canada participates actively in the committees and commissions responsible for bringing about reform and improvement.

In all, progress has been made. And what has made it possible is the widespread realization that the vision, the global community, and the enterprise are worth fighting for. Will reform succeed and the United Nations emerge even stronger? Canada is betting it will.

# T

## hree Chances for Canada

**We must recognize that humanity shares this planet and that it must learn to live together despite the ideological divisions and mistrust that often divide it. This vision of the unity of humanity lay behind the founding of the United Nations in 1945 and the creation of the network of UN agencies that have done so much constructive work.**

— Douglas Roche,  
Canada's Ambassador  
for Disarmament

Douglas Roche has been Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament since 1984. In his area of arms control and disarmament, there are at least three major occasions in the second half of 1988 when Canada will be able to show its vigour and concern. In this interview Douglas Roche talks with *Canada Reports* about his hopes for these three occasions: the Third Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD-III) from May 31 to June 25, 1988; the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly which meets in the fall to deal with disarmament and international security; and the election of non-permanent members to the Security Council in October.

*Canada Reports:* Why are these three occasions particularly important to Canada?

*Roche:* For a start, it is six years since the Second Special Session on Disarmament, when very little was accomplished. A good deal has happened since. The atmosphere

has improved between the Soviet Union and the United States, and UNSSOD-III follows immediately after the Gorbachev-Reagan summit in Moscow.

Then in September I am due to be elected chairman of the First Committee, and this is the first time Canada has chaired this committee since Lester Pearson did 40 years ago. The post rotates in strict order between the five geographical groups, and Canada is the unanimous nominee of the Western European and Others Group; so the election in September will be a formality. That is not the case with the Security Council, because three countries — Canada, Finland and Greece — are in contention for two seats on the council for the two-year period 1989-90.

*Canada Reports:* All right then, let's take the three in turn. What do you hope will be the main area of advance at the Third Special Session?

*Roche:* I hope it will be a consolidation of ongoing efforts. There is a certain historical momentum building up. We have seen results already in the treaty signed for the removal of intermediate-range nuclear forces. That's bilateral, but multilaterally [in the 40-nation Conference on Disarmament in Geneva] we have made considerable progress towards a chemical weapons treaty.

**Douglas Roche:**  
Canada's Ambassa-  
dor for Disarmament



We have also seen progress in Vienna in the formulation of an entirely new set of negotiations on the reduction of conventional forces in Europe. So we want the Third Special Session to consolidate all these. It is a political event, and not a negotiating event. In that sense it can reinforce what is going on and give an added jolt of energy, and be a confidence-building measure. I think the Third Special Session can be very helpful in those terms.

*Canada Reports:* Canada has concentrated a lot of effort on the verification process. How does that fit in here?

*Roche:* What we have done is to establish the legitimacy and necessity of verification. Canada has been a leader in developing an internationally agreed set of verification principles and practices, and at the UNDC [United Nations Disarmament Commission] this year we are going to extend the list and then roll it over into UNSSOD-III for the purpose of strengthening the international community's acceptance and practice of verification as a basis for extending arms control and disarmament agreements up to conventional force reductions in Europe.

If we didn't have verification built in as strongly as it is to the INF [Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces] treaty, there wouldn't be a hope of getting it ratified by the U.S. Congress this summer.

It is a very important point. We are putting a paper on this subject into the Third Special Session.

Canada Reports: What do you hope to do in the First Committee?

Roche: I wish to make it clear that although the First Committee does not negotiate arms control and disarmament agreements, its deliberations can be brought to bear, particularly when these deliberations carry the weight of strong public opinion, upon negotiating priorities in other forums. If the First Committee is to do this effectively, however, its deliberations and procedures must be streamlined. It cannot be effective when it passes several contradictory resolutions on the same subject. Last year, the First Committee made significant progress, reducing the number of Chemical Weapons resolutions from six to two. This year, I will focus my attention on continuing this process so that the First Committee may speak with a unanimous voice.

*"I have come to the conclusion. . . that we are not going to have disarmament first and then the world gets better — but the other way round."*

Nuclear weapons issues tend to dominate the resolutions of the First Committee, yet global levels of conventional arms are high and rising, and that is a problem which many member states could help resolve by their own action. I hope to expand the scope of First Committee deliberations so that the attention given to relations between the superpowers, where progress is being made, does not distract us from other regional problems where the world community can have a good impact.



UN Photo 154631



UN Photo 154640

Canada Reports: My last question: what can Canada hope to do on the Security Council, assuming we are elected to a seat for 1989-90?

*"To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war."*

Roche: Canada is a strong proponent of multilateralism and would like to assist the United Nations in reasserting

Walking from Toronto to UN headquarters for peace.

its capacity to play the central role it was designed to play in dealing with the problems which face the international community, including Afghanistan, Cyprus, Kampuchea, Central America and the Middle East. More and more we are seeing an enlarged definition of the word "security," meaning that state which comes from economic and social development, the protection of human rights, an end to racial discrimination, and the protection of the environment, as well as from arms control measures.

I believe that on the Security Council, Canada, with its reputation as a fair-minded democratic nation, will want to promote this understanding of security. I have come to the conclusion, on the basis of 30 years as a journalist, parliamentarian and diplomat, that we are not going to have disarmament first and then the world gets better — but the other way round.

# Soldiers of Peace

**W**hen the United Nations sent 6 000 peacekeeping troops, including almost 1 200 Canadians, to the Sinai peninsula in 1956, a new era in international diplomacy was born. More than three decades later, Canada's leading role in the design and implementation of multilateral peacekeeping activities is still a great source of national pride.

Today, Canada participates actively in UN peacekeeping forces in Cyprus and the Middle East, and in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) established outside UN auspices to monitor implementation of the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. And when Central American leaders reached agreement on a regional plan for peace and reconciliation, Canada immediately offered the services of a professional design team to support the development of appropriate peacekeeping mechanisms. In many ways, this activity can be traced back to the day in 1956 when Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs Lester B. Pearson, who later became Canada's prime minister, rose in the United Nations General Assembly to propose one of the most creative diplomatic advances of the post-war era.

## Moving Back from the Brink

Modern peacekeeping grew out of a recognition that new methods would be required to deal with regional conflicts in the nuclear age.

When the United Nations was formed after the Second World War, it was anticipated that the world body would use a judicious blend of negotiations, non-military sanctions and military action to keep the peace. But as then UN Secretary-General U Thant observed in 1963, "there has been a gradual change in thinking on questions of international security. The idea that . . . war can be used by or on behalf of the United Nations to counter aggression and secure the peace seems now to be rather impractical."

In November 1956, the UN faced a potentially cataclysmic problem. A military conflict was raging in the Suez Canal zone, and there were fears that the situation could escalate. At Pearson's urging, the General Assembly established a peacekeeping force, the first United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I), under the command of another Canadian, Lt.-Gen. E.L.M. Burns. UNEF I would serve as an effective buffer between Israeli and Egyptian troops until May 1967.

Pearson believed the Suez crisis could help build a broad, international consensus in support of a negotiated political solution for the region. "What is the use of passing a resolution which brings about a ceasefire and a withdrawal?" he asked the Assembly. "What are we withdrawing to — the same state of affairs? . . . If we do not take advantage of this crisis to do something about a political settlement, we will regret it. The time has now



Photo: Canadian Forces

## Keeping the peace.

come for the UN not only to bring about a ceasefire, but to move in and police the ceasefire and make arrangements for a political settlement." Pearson earned the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in the Suez debate.

## A Positive Approach

Since the 1950s, Canada has participated in every peacekeeping operation the United Nations has organized, and in multilateral discussions aimed at improving the effectiveness of modern peacekeeping. Canadian troops have also been involved in four control commissions or observer forces established outside the UN umbrella. With its enthusiasm for the process, and its strong advocacy of more equitable funding arrangements for peacekeeping forces, Canada has demonstrated its commitment to promoting international security.

Major Canadian peacekeeping initiatives have included:

- provision of up to 7 000 troops as part of a UN force established to control and limit the conflict in the Korean War theatre;
- continuous participation of up to 1 126 personnel in the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), established in 1964 to prevent a recurrence of hostilities between the island's Greek and Turkish communities;
- assignment of 421 troops, including signal specialists and a small air contingent, to support a UN peacekeeping force in Congo (now Zaire) between 1960 and 1963;
- provision of 361 personnel to UN control commissions in Southeast Asia, 194 to UN forces in Lebanon, 112 to an observer mission along the India-Pakistan border, and small contingents to peacekeeping operations in Korea, West New Guinea, Yemen and Nigeria;

# No Quarrel Worth the Price of Global Destruction

**A**lthough Lester B. Pearson was responsible for establishing Canada's reputation as an international peacekeeper in 1956, he received a strong assist from Lt.-Gen. E.L.M. Burns, a Canadian war veteran who had served as Chief of Staff to the Jerusalem-based United Nations Truce Supervision Organization since 1954. When the first United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I) was formed, at then Secretary of State Pearson's initiative, Burns became its commander.

Burns, a native of Montreal who died in 1985, was first commissioned to the Royal Canadian Engineers in 1915 and commanded the 1st Canadian Corps in Italy

during the Second World War. His steady leadership, and his knowledge of the politics and logistics of Middle East peacekeeping, contributed heavily to the success of UNEF I.

In his memoirs, General Burns recalled that the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of the Second World War had persuaded him of the need for peace. "It did not need pages of laboured scientific and humanitarian explanation to convince me that there could be no quarrel between the so-called civilized nations whose settlement would be worth paying the price of the destruction that would be caused by an atom war," he wrote. "The ideal of the pre-

vention of a war which would destroy countless million man-years of thought and labour was there, in the United Nations Charter. Everyone who believed in that ideal had a duty to do what they could to make this a reality."

King Gordon, who worked with General Burns at UNEF I, recalled the commander as a calm, considerate, impeccably organized and highly respected leader.

"Burns was a highly professional military man and he carried enormous respect," Gordon said. "He . . . knew the situation inside out; he had great intelligence and also great curiosity, and he made a point of discovering the political situation behind

everything. He was not simply the military commander; he was also a political figure as representative of the UN Secretary-General."

Sir Brian Urquhart, retired UN Under-Secretary General for Special Political Affairs, recalls General Burns as "very low-key, a very skeptical guy, which is what you need to be in UN peacekeeping. He was a very good organizer, he had a very clear idea of the political situation, and of course he had a lot of experience in the truce supervision business." In a job that called for a lot of improvisation, he said General Burns "was pretty impressive and highly intelligent, and did an excellent job of running an experimental operation."



Photo: Canadian Forces, WO Vic Johnson

Canadian troops play a leading role in UN peacekeeping missions the world over.

- participation of 1 145 troops and observers in the second United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II) sent to supervise the ceasefire between Egyptian and Israeli forces and later to supervise the redeployment of these forces in the buffer zones created in the Suez Canal sector and the Sinai peninsula;

- dispatching of 117 personnel to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from April to September 1978.

Lt.-Col. Don Ethel is a veteran Canadian peacekeeper who served as senior Canadian military observer for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) between 1984 and 1987 and as deputy chief of staff for the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) between Syria and Israel from 1984 to 1986.

He said the success of UN peacekeeping operations is based on three key elements — reliability, credibility, and confidence. "You must be totally impartial, you must be totally honest, and you must not attempt to do something which would favour one side or the other," he said.

## A Recognized Authority

At the official level, Canada has been recognized as a leading expert in international peacekeeping. Continuing field experience has enabled Canadian specialists to identify the critical factors that determine the success of any peacekeeping initiative.

The peacekeeping mission either is the result of a political settlement between the parties to the conflict, or reflects their expressed interest in seeking such a settlement. The parties must agree to a ceasefire and must

accept the presence, composition and mandate of the peacekeeping force.

The peacekeeping force has a clear mandate, has sufficient freedom of movement to meet its responsibilities, and has appropriate authority to defend itself in case of attack. A political authority, preferably the UN, is responsible for supervising and supporting the mission, and for arranging a fair and equitable method of financing the operation.

Participation in the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (the Committee of 33) has given Canada many opportunities to recommend improvements to the peacekeeping process. In recent years, these efforts have emphasized the need for adequate financial support for peacekeeping operations, advance preparation and wider participation by UN member states, and standardization of operating procedures and training.

# F for a More Humane World

A vital and natural expression of Canadian values, the international promotion of human rights has been an integral part of Canadian foreign policy for many years. South Africa's abhorrent system of *apartheid*, and Canada's staunch opposition to it, is a case in point.

*Apartheid* is a system of institutionalized racism that is reflected in every aspect of South African life — social, political, legal and economic. In South Africa, a minority of the population continues to pretend to operate a democratic political system while denying political rights to the overwhelming majority of the population. This double standard, based entirely on race, is one that most South Africans and the world community find totally repugnant.

While the system of *apartheid* remains intact, the government of South Africa accepts that it can never successfully justify it — either to South Africans or to the rest of the world. Instead it pretends that *apartheid* no longer exists. Yet the black majority remains bereft of political rights; large numbers of South Africans are still being denied citizenship in their own land; controls are still placed on where people can live; and gross social and economic inequities remain *apartheid's* enduring legacy. Racism continues to be the cornerstone of South African society.

During the 1980s the black majority of South Africa has shown that it is prepared to pay the price to claim its human rights. The Government of South Africa has



responded to the growing unrest which arises from systematic racial discrimination with harsh repression. The price in blood and suffering has been high: since 1984 thousands have been killed, and tens of thousands have been detained without trial.

---

*Canada, with the support of all its major political parties and the overwhelming majority of its people, has opposed apartheid in no uncertain terms.*

---

Canada, with the support of all its major political parties and the overwhelming majority of its people, has opposed *apartheid* in no uncertain terms. Joe Clark, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, has declared that "Canadians are offended by

and abhor the practice of institutionalized racism by a society that claims to share our values."

Canada has played a leading role in international efforts to bring an end to *apartheid*. Through international forums such as the United Nations, the Commonwealth and la Francophonie, Canada has worked to ensure that concerted international pressure is maintained on South Africa to dismantle *apartheid*, to enter into negotiations with black leaders towards the establishment of non-racial, representative government, and to allow Namibia its rightful independence.

To impress upon the South African government the urgency of real progress, Canada has imposed a series of strong measures unilaterally and in concert with the Commonwealth and the United Nations. Canada has adopted all the economic and

**Breaching human rights: arrest and detention without charge in South Africa.**

other sanctions agreed to by the Commonwealth. For example, Canada has banned new bank loans and new investment in South Africa; vetoed the import of South African agricultural products, uranium, coal, iron and steel; and terminated all programs designed to help firms exporting to South Africa or Namibia.

Canada also helps the victims and opponents of *apartheid* and supports South Africa's neighbours. Last year, for instance, Canada provided over \$5 million for education, community development and legal and humanitarian assistance to the victims of *apartheid*. These funds will be considerably increased

in 1988. Canada has given substantial support to the United Nations' programs to assist South African and Namibian refugees. The country is also very active in efforts to strengthen the economies of South Africa's neighbours and to make them less vulnerable to South African pressure. In fact, Canada has committed \$40 million annually to the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference, the nine-nation regional self-help organization, and \$100 million annually in bilateral aid to its members.

Economic and other measures taken by Canada to pressure South Africa to dismantle *apartheid* are equally directed at inducing South Africa to implement UN Security Council Resolution 435 — the only universally accepted framework for Namibian independence.

In 1977, Canada and four other Western members of the Security Council formed a "Contact Group" to help draw up a plan for Namibia's independence and to negotiate its acceptance by South Africa. The plan, embodied in Resolution 435 of 1978, provides for the election and convening of a constituent assembly to adopt a constitution for an independent Namibia. Although South Africa accepts this settlement plan in principle, it has failed to proceed with its implementation, continuing instead to occupy Namibia illegally. Canada, which has consistently pressed South Africa to end its occupation, stands ready to assist in the implementation of the UN plan, and in the meantime continues to provide aid to Namibians directly and through the UN.

With Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in the chair, the Commonwealth Heads of Government decided, at their October 1987 meeting in Vancouver, on a broad program of action to combat *apartheid* through sanctions, aid to the region, and promotion of dialogue and efforts to counteract South African propaganda and censorship.

---

*Canada has played a leading role in international efforts to bring an end to apartheid.*

---

Canada is also chairing a committee of eight Commonwealth foreign ministers, who will meet periodically before the next Commonwealth meeting to provide high-level impetus and guidance to Commonwealth efforts on Southern Africa. The committee met first in Lusaka, Zambia, in February 1988 and will meet again in Canada in early August 1988.

The Commonwealth and its committee complement the work that other countries and organizations — the UN in particular — are doing in the battle against *apartheid*.

*Apartheid* will be dismantled — the challenge is to ensure that this happens as quickly and as peacefully as possible.

The work of the UN Commission on Human Rights is of great importance. It helps to remind the world that *apartheid* systematizes racial discrimination and inequities that are fundamentally inconsistent with the principles upon which human rights are based. It helps to focus world attention on the systematic repression that continues to be used by the Government of South Africa to quash the social and political unrest that arises in response to *apartheid*. The world must remain conscious of the fact that in South Africa the government jails those who seek change

peacefully rather than negotiates with them. This demonstrates clearly the moral bankruptcy of the *apartheid* system.

The commission's work is all the more important since instead of allowing constructive debate, the Government of South Africa has strengthened its instruments of censorship and propaganda in what ultimately will be an unsuccessful campaign to blind the world to the truth about *apartheid*.

Canada is committed to continue its work with this commission and with other multi-lateral organizations to focus attention on the cruelties of *apartheid* and to pressure South Africa into dismantling that system and bringing about fundamental change.

South Africa's abhorrent system of *apartheid*, or institutionalized racism.



# African Recovery Program

**N**ear the town of Mopti in Central Mali in late August 1984, an 11-year-old boy trudged a few metres into the desert, lay down on the parched, dry earth and died. On that day in Africa, he was only one of thousands of victims who succumbed to the worst drought and famine to hit the continent since the turn of the century.

Meanwhile, several thousand kilometres away in Ethiopia, a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television crew was completing a video segment on the human cost of the same drought and famine that was spreading through the entire sub-Saharan region — a tragedy that had already devastated hundreds of thousands of lives. These television images — aired in Europe and North America a few weeks later — made the catastrophe a vivid nightmare for Westerners. The heart-wrenching pictures of children too weak to smile, of mothers too weary to weep, of men too defeated to search for one last morsel of food changed forever the romantic image of Africa that so many Westerners had held for so long. They also unleashed a series of events which led Canada and other members of the United Nations to adopt one of the most far-reaching and comprehensive continental recovery programs ever undertaken.

Canada's response to the African crisis as well as its role in the formulation and implementation of the UN recovery program was both critical and dynamic.

When the graphic images of the tragedy that was ravaging central Africa were broadcast into the homes of Canadians, thousands were galvanized into support of the government's major relief effort. The Canadian International Development Agency and the International Development Research Centre were given the responsibility for providing massive funds and assistance for immediate relief. Canadian grain and other foodstuffs, medical equipment, trucks and transport aircraft, and expert personnel were immediately rushed to Ethiopia and elsewhere in the region to join in the cooperative emergency effort with 22 other countries. From October 1984 to July 1985 this relief program saved over a million people from starvation.

At UN headquarters in New York City, Canada was assigned the critical task of chairing the meeting of the Special Session of the General Assembly, convened in June 1986, to deal with the African situation. The Canadian delegation, under the leadership of Ambassador Stephen Lewis, was successful in guiding the contentious and difficult Special Session to a consensus adoption of the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. A landmark in international co-operation, this program established a practical and concrete plan for the economic and social rehabilitation of an entire continent — with the courageous objective of taking it from drought, dust and devastation to relative economic stability in five short years.

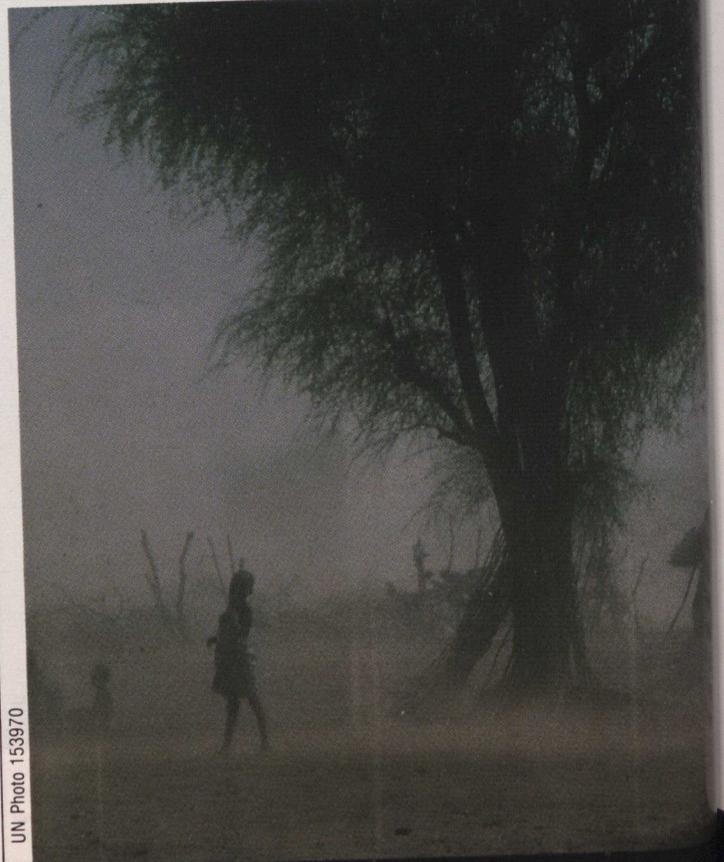
Canada also took the lead in implementing the program, working closely with the UN in New York, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, other donor countries and most importantly Canadian and international non-governmental organizations which, in many cases, provided the most effective and immediate on-site relief in Africa.

The overwhelming response of Canadians to the 1984 African crisis and their continued support for the African Recovery Programme have been demonstrated in the emergence of grassroots organizations throughout the country, ranging from a church group on Vancouver Island to grain co-operatives on the prairies to a fishermen's union in Nova Scotia.

They represent an ongoing and heartfelt Canadian response to the plight of the desperate millions on the African continent.

This commitment has been strengthened in response to the recent reoccurrence of the drought and famine in Ethiopia, the Sudan, and elsewhere in the region. The Canadian people and government will continue to respond and to work with the United Nations and other international organizations in an attempt to provide the people of Africa with a future free from the spectre of drought and starvation.

**Fighting the spread of drought and famine: the UN African Recovery Program.**



UN Photo 153970

# Neuroscience: "The Brain Deboggles"

The human brain, the most complex organism on the face of the earth, has eluded attempts to understand it for centuries. But today, the mysteries of the brain are being unravelled in quantum leaps, with new discoveries and pioneering medical treatments reported almost weekly. Fuelling advances in neuroscience are the exciting medical applications of today's advanced technology, the emergence of new genetic engineering techniques, and the minds of researchers and surgeons alike.

## Mapping the Brain

One of the more exciting of the new tools and techniques available to medical science is Positron Emission Tomography (PET). PET scanners can recreate a shifting, colour picture of the living human brain on a computer screen.

The revolutionary PET system has recently helped Canadian researchers make major advances in the fight against Parkinson's disease. In Parkinson's victims, the brain cells that produce dopamine — a key chemical in the brain's internal communication system — die, resulting in a progressive loss of muscle control, tremors, slowness of movement and memory impairment.

In the early 1980s, Dr. Stephen Garnett, Chief of nuclear medicine at McMaster University Medical Centre in Hamilton, Ontario, played a key role in developing fluoro-L-dopa — a radioactive version of a drug that partly makes up for the loss of



Ottawa Civic Hospital implant team with Dr. Benoit (left) and Dr. Grimes in foreground.

dopamine. The discovery enabled researchers to study the brain abnormalities of Parkinson's victims with PET scans. Today, doctors consider Parkinson's to be the best-understood neurological disease of all, though the reason dopamine-producing cells die remains a mystery.

Other Canadian researchers are determined to solve this mystery by applying PET technology to unlikely clues. In 1982, an illicit drug containing methylphenyltetrahydropyridine (MPTP) caused users to develop symptoms of Parkinson's. Using PET scans, Donald Calne, a professor of medicine at the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Health Science Centre, discovered brain abnormalities which led him to predict that the users may develop

Parkinson's in later life. As a result, many researchers now believe that pyridine in MPTP may play a role in causing the disease.

## Decoding Genetic Secrets

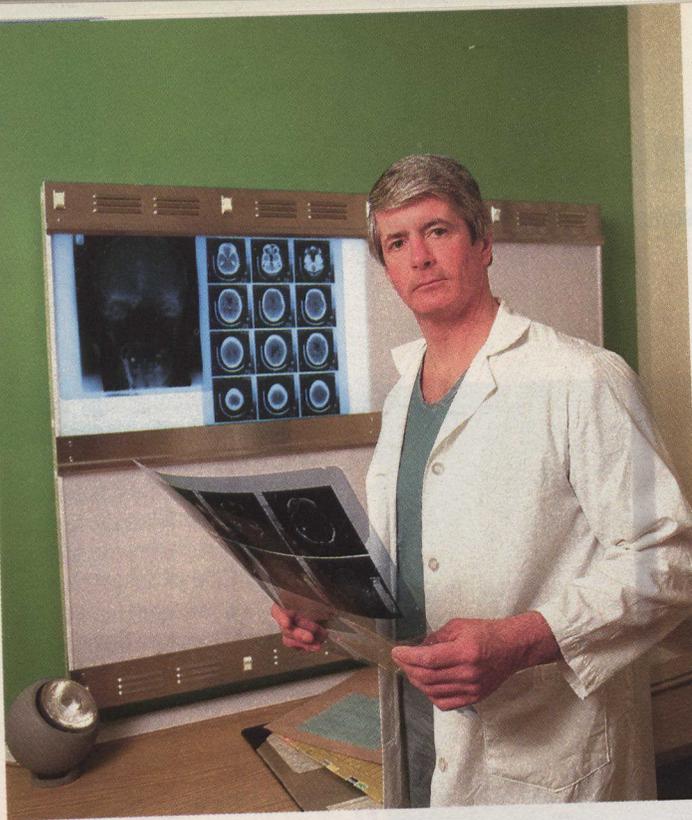
Perhaps the most exciting advancements in the exploration of the human brain have come from new genetic engineering techniques which enable scientists to examine, and perhaps someday repair, the genes that contribute to brain disorders. Like all human tissue, brain cells — or neurons — function according to instructions issued by genes lodged in the nucleus of every nerve cell. Using advanced genetic engineering techniques, scientists can now extract samples of the gene-bearing substance, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), from a cell and replicate individual genes. Once isolated, genes can be examined and, in simple organisms, re-engineered to create new genetic characteristics.

This new biotechnology has revealed that many neurological diseases and mental illnesses may be the result of inherited characteristics. At the forefront of this rapidly growing field of research are Canadians who have made key discoveries in the study of Huntington's and Alzheimer's diseases, multiple sclerosis, Down's syndrome and schizophrenia.

One of the most dramatic demonstrations of the potential value of the new techniques took place in 1983. James Gusella, a Canadian neuroscientist working at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital, decided to try to isolate the gene responsible for the debilitating Huntington's disease — an inherited degenerative brain disorder leading to involuntary movement of limbs, severe mental impairment and personality change.

From blood samples of a 7 000-member extended family with a history of Huntington's disease, Gusella's team was able to identify the site of the Huntington's gene in the DNA chain. Gusella, who studied biology at the universities of Ottawa and Toronto, is now working to track the gene itself. When found, it is expected to yield knowledge that could lead to improved treatment and even prevention of Huntington's. In the meantime, scientists at three North American hospitals, including UBC's Health Science Centre, are using this information to determine whether adults or fetuses are carrying the Huntington's gene.

© 1988 Jim Merrithew



© 1988 Jim Merrithew

**Dr. Brien Benoit:** working to understand the brain's mysteries.

Gusella's pioneering work has set off a wave of studies which are taking scientists steadily closer to the genetic roots of many neurological diseases. For example, in 1987 another Canadian doctor working in Gusella's laboratory, Peter St. George Hyslop, isolated the site of the Alzheimer's gene. Said St. George Hyslop, "We're in a race because the quicker we can isolate the gene, the more likely it will be that we can find preventive, palliative and even curative treatments for this disease," which causes fatal physical and mental degeneration.

Canadian researchers also reported a breakthrough last year in battling multiple sclerosis (MS), which causes creeping paralysis. John Roder, a neurobiologist at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital, and Robert Dunn, a professor of neurobiology at the University of Toronto, studied the process of myelination in which certain cells form a

sheath around nerve axons to speed the transmission of electrical signals.

In MS the myelin sheath breaks down, cutting off communications from parts of the brain and central nervous system to various parts of the body. Roder and Dunn successfully cloned the gene for myelin-associated glycoprotein, a substance which they say may be critical in the myelination process. "Once we understand how the system develops," noted Roder, "we may have a better understanding of how to get myelination started again once it's broken down."

The rapid pace of new discoveries continues. In March 1988, scientists at the University of Toronto reported that, with the help of California researchers, they had located the gene responsible for producing a brain protein called S100 which likely plays a role in causing Down's syndrome.

### Clues to Mental Illness

Genetic engineering is also providing a new direction for research into mental illnesses with clues that such serious

disorders as schizophrenia and manic-depressive illness may be genetic in origin.

Only last year, Canadian psychiatrist Anne Bassett made an important discovery after a clue alerted her to the possibility that schizophrenia might be inherited — a fact researchers had suspected. But after Bassett had a geneticist examine two related patients, researchers found they both had an extra copy of part of one chromosome — a one-in-a-million coincidence.

Working from this initial clue, Bassett (currently on a two-year fellowship at New York Psychiatric Institute) has launched a joint project with Canadian researchers. They are searching for large families in eastern Canada, with a history of schizophrenia, from whom they hope to extract blood samples to be examined for recurring genetic patterns.

Bassett believes that her findings may lead to a fundamental breakthrough in understanding schizophrenia. "We have techniques to work with now that weren't even available a few years ago," she says.

### Revolutionary Surgery

In a historic four-hour operation, Canadian surgeons at Ottawa's Civic Hospital worked quickly and skilfully under the bright lights of an operating room, removing one adrenal gland from a Parkinson's patient and then implanting seven pieces of its tissue into his brain. Less than a month later, James Keogh, who had been almost immobilized by the debilitating disease prior to the surgery, walked unassisted to a press conference and thanked the doctors for his new lease on life.

Keogh had just had the first adrenal gland implant performed in Canada — a surgical technique developed only

three years earlier. Leading the surgical team were neurologist David Grimes and neurosurgeon Brien Benoit, who has improved the still experimental surgery. Benoit's technique minimizes the amount of surgery necessary and uses a greater number of tissue implants, secured by staples to the part of the brain that controls body movement.

Doctors are not certain whether such implants help to reduce the symptoms of Parkinson's because the adrenal cells secrete the chemical dopamine lacking in Parkinson's victims or because they supply a substance called nerve growth factor which helps patients' dying dopamine cells recover. Whatever the reason, the surgery has a 70 per cent success rate with patients enjoying improved speech, movement and balance, although most still experience some symptoms of the disease and require continued medication. As Benoit explains: "We wondered if we should wait longer, until more is known. But then we would be potentially denying patients something that might help them." In Keogh's case, Benoit notes that doctors are "very pleased with his post-operative recovery and there has been a sustained, general improvement."

### Towards the Future

The revolution in neuroscience has really just begun and the field remains rich in mysteries. The future, however, promises new treatments for brain disorders unimaginable only two decades ago. It seems that one day, perhaps, the human brain will ultimately succeed in mastering itself.

(*Canada Reports* wishes to acknowledge the input to this article provided by the Canadian weekly news magazine *Maclean's*.)

# Canadian Sophistication on the Seine

Two Canadian curators have emerged as stars of the art scene with the successful openings of their van Gogh and Degas exhibitions in Paris. Indeed, in a city long noted for its wealth of art and cultural sophistication, their triumphs have commanded the attention and praise of the world's art community.

Van Gogh in Paris, curated by University of Toronto art historian Dr. Bogomila Welsh-Ovcharov, was the first to open in February. Running until mid-May at the Musée d'Orsay on the city's Left Bank, the exhibit captured the imagination of Parisians as few have, sweeping the city into the throes of "Vangoghmania" according to *Le Monde*. The show was so popular that Parisians lined up outside the museum half an hour before its opening, awaiting their chance to view the collection's innovative presentation of the Dutch artist's work.

For Welsh-Ovcharov the show crowns a 20-year career devoted to van Gogh. She spent three years searching through public and private collections in Europe and the United States to select the 124 paintings which compose the exhibit. Painted between 1866 and 1888, the works mark a turning point in van Gogh's career.

Van Gogh lived in Paris during this period, and it was here he abandoned the traditional sombre colours of Dutch painters for a brighter palette, while mingling with such revolutionary Parisian artists as Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. Many of the works in the collection depict the

city of Paris — its cafés and street life — while one entire room is devoted to self-portraits. Painted in a variety of styles, they trace van Gogh's artistic evolution during these years.

Welsh-Ovcharov challenged traditional assumptions regarding van Gogh's work in the exhibit, attempting to prove that van Gogh was a disciplined artist and not a wildly inspired, yet tormented genius. And it seems as if she has succeeded. *Le Monde* praised the exhibit for demystifying van Gogh's genius, describing Welsh-Ovcharov as "a leading specialist of the painter van Gogh truly was and not the painter he has been disguised as." Françoise Cachin, director of the Musée d'Orsay, concurs, adding that the Canadian "is simply the best scholar I know to do that kind of work. We are both very happy with the results."

While Welsh-Ovcharov's show documented a turning point in a great artist's life, the other major exhibit mounted by a Canadian in Paris this spring is an ambitious retrospective of the works of French impressionist Edgar Degas. Displayed at the Grand Palais, across the Seine from the Musée d'Orsay, its opening was officiated over by Ottawa-based curator Jean Sutherland Boggs.

Boggs, the former director of the National Gallery of Canada and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, leads the team of five international experts who assembled the retrospective.



Photo: J. B. Poree/Ponopresse Intl.

Welsh-Ovcharov and Boggs at the Degas show: two coups in Paris.

She spent five years collecting pieces, which span Degas' entire 50-year career, from over 100 public and private collections in 14 countries. Comprising more than 400 diverse works, from oil paintings and pastels to sculptures and photographs, the exhibition highlights some of Degas' favourite subjects, including ballet dancers, nudes, landscapes, and theatre and race track scenes.

Although Degas was a secretive man whose work, unlike van Gogh's, unveils little of his inner world, the retrospective provides surprisingly revealing insights. As Boggs explains, "We wanted to show an intelligent, sensitive person who expresses so much, and the range in that sensitivity from the early works of a rather stable society to works of 1900, in which there is no longer that same confidence in the world."

The widely acclaimed show is jointly sponsored by France's Musée d'Orsay, the National Gallery of Canada and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Since leaving Paris in mid-May, the retrospective has been on display at the new National Gallery in Ottawa. In September it will proceed to the Metropolitan in New York.

As Patrice Bachelard, editor-in-chief of the respected *Beaux Arts* noted, "The Degas show is putting Canada on the international art circuit." Not only that, but combined with the success of Canadian art experts like Welsh-Ovcharov and Boggs, it is proof of Canada's emerging sophistication and expertise in the world of art.

# CANADIAN FASHION COMES OF AGE

**C**anadian fashion has arrived! A growing number of Canadian designers are winning awards, setting trends and receiving accolades — both at home and abroad. Here are profiles of some of our best and brightest stars . . .

## Alfred Sung

Alfred Sung is without a doubt Canada's most renowned fashion designer. His name is immediately associated with neo-classic designs that combine comfort and good taste giving an impression of quiet quality.

Throughout North America, thousands of fashion-conscious women are sporting his crisply tailored suits during the day and his slinky silks at night. The cool sophisticated look of Alfred Sung is everywhere. Operating under the labels "Alfred Sung" and "Sung Sport" his clothes are sold in more than 600 stores across Canada and more than 400 in the United States. Last year, Sung designs generated sales of \$24.8 million.

Part of Alfred Sung's success is due to his affiliation with Saul and Joseph Mimran, one of Canada's most dynamic marketing teams. Together they have expanded the range of Sung products to include fragrance and bath products, men's wear, furs, coats, suedes and leathers, socks, gloves, belts, pantyhose, scarves, watches, designer patterns and home fashions.

Sung's designs combine comfort and good taste giving an impression of quiet quality.



Born in Shanghai in 1948 and raised in Hong Kong, Alfred Sung left his family at age 17 to study at la Chambre syndicale de la couture parisienne, where he placed first in design. He then went to New York City's Parson's School of Design on a fellowship. Sung moved to Toronto in 1972 and designed sportswear before opening his own shop Moon four years later. It was there that business brothers Saul and Joseph spotted Sung and approached him with the offer to design a co-ordinate sportswear line. This co-operative effort ultimately led to formation (after 1980) of The Monaco Group.

Since then, Alfred Sung has risen from relative obscurity to become a major force in North American fashion. In the past couple of years, Sung and The Monaco Group have explored a new retail concept — "Club Monaco." Focusing on popularly priced items for women, men, and children, there are now 32 locations that sell this line across Canada and more will be opened this year. Sung says that the new line is made up of clothes he himself likes to wear — casual, comfortable, bright and with continental flavour.

Sung's fragrances, launched in 1986, add the name of Alfred Sung to the list of fashion designers who have ventured into the fragrance market. Joining the ranks of Christian Dior, Yves Saint-Laurent, Pierre Cardin and Calvin Klein, Sung also has the distinctive honour of being the first Canadian designer to launch a Canadian perfume.

Photo: Flare Magazine



But designing clothes remains Alfred Sung's main interest. And the soft-spoken, hard-working perfectionist continues to dazzle fashion-conscious people with the uncomplicated elegance of his creations.

#### Jean-Claude Poitras

Montreal designer Jean-Claude Poitras is a "big gun" on the Canadian fashion scene whose sophisticated separates have received accolades in Europe, Canada and the United States for more than 10 years. Poitras' unique designs emphasize a richness of fabric, colour and style that creates a spirited and elegant look.

Not only a hit with the buying public, Poitras has also received critical acclaim from numerous audiences. At an international competition held in California in 1982, he won the *Moda del Amo* prize for design. In 1987, Poitras was chosen to represent Canada

at Monte Carlo's *Fil d'Or* — where he won a prestigious award given by France's *Maison du Lin* to exceptional designers making significant contributions to the world of fashion. That same year, he also received the Canadian Woolmark Award in recognition of his design expertise. And recently, Dubonnet honoured Poitras for his achievements over the past decade with a presentation of his men's and women's collections during the *Gala Mode Design Dubonnet* that was held in Montreal.

Born in 1949, Poitras studied the basics of *couture* at *École des métiers commerciaux* and commercial design at the *Studio Salette*, both in Montreal. He entered the design world with the opening of his own workshop called *Parenthèse* (parenthesis). Then, in 1972, he joined up with Eaton's — a large Canadian retailer — as buyer and manager for the *Adam Shop* (the European designers' men's boutique)

Poitras' emphasis on richness of fabric, colour and style creates a spirited and elegant look.

and as assistant buyer for the *Ensemble Shop* (women's European high fashion). Says Poitras, "I discovered then the international fashion scene, the European style of business."

Poitras left Eaton's and became the salesperson for the *Peroche* line at *Beverini*, a Canadian manufacturing company. Designing his first coats for the *Beverini* collection, in 1977 he became the stylist for the line, to which he brought a younger, more European look. Later, Poitras began designing under his own label, "Bof", a French expression which underlines his irreverent attitude to fashion and his intent to innovate. The *Bof* line was nationally distributed and the *Bof* boutique was its highest-profile home in Montreal. Poitras soon became known as one of Canada's most promising designers.

Poitras' first licensing agreement in 1983 affiliated him with *Importations Franck*, for which he creates a varied line of sportswear, knits and coats. A second licensing agreement was signed in 1984 with *International Trademark Apparel* (then known as *Sawyer Canada* — a Toronto-based company) to design a line of men's and women's sheepskin coats. As a good example of his trend-setting — never trendy — fashions, Poitras has given a totally new look to sheepskin, almost singlehandedly turning a failing market into an international success. Recently, he has entered into partnership with *Amsel and Amsel*, a Montreal manufacturer, to produce a collection of fur coats for men and women, for which the first designs will be launched this fall.

#### Harry Parnass and Nicola Pelly

Ten years ago, Harry Parnass and Nicola Pelly opened the first *Parachute* store in a converted boiler room on *Crescent Street* in Montreal. Today their designs are sold by more than 200 independent retailers in Europe, Japan, Australia, the United States and Canada, generating sales of approximately \$27 million per year. Having outfitted such celebrities as Michael Jackson, Jane Fonda, Don Johnson, Peter Gabriel and Woody Allen, the designers have clearly attained international status.

Parnass — a practising architect and Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning at the *Université de Montréal* — is the ideas person. He is the conceptualizer, not only of the clothing designs but also of the stores themselves. He says they are based on the Italian piazza concept, with a central open space in each showroom where people can meet, chat or just be seen. Parnass, now 52, gets his ideas from reading, travelling and teaching. "It makes for a very nervous life," he admits, "you never relax because everything is information."

Nicola Pelly, 39, studied fashion design in England and has worked extensively in Europe, the Orient, Canada and the United States as a fashion consultant. She's the pragmatic half of the team, the one who translates Parnass' ideas. She has the technical background, the sensitivity to fabric and the creative marketing skills.

For Parnass and Pelly, designing clothes is not just a matter of catering to the masses: it is a philosophy that fuses together elements from cultures past and present to make new forms and new symmetries, "hybrids" as they call them. As Parnass explained in a recent lecture in Milan: "We work in a time



Photo: Ellen Tofflemire

**Parnass and Pelly's designs: at the forefront of avant garde fashion.**

machine . . . Nicola and I mine what we call the 'collective memory' of our generation to produce new combinations of ideas for the 1980s. Images of Colonial Raj vests, Harlem's Apollo Theatre in the thirties, professional sports gear, rebel guerillas of every culture, Hollywood's forties 'glam/lux,' and always the military . . . these are all part of our intellectual resource."

The name Parachute was chosen in part for its bilingual nature — an important consideration in Canada — and in part because it carries a connotation of risk. Says Pelly: "We feel our customers have to have courage; they must meet us half way with the designs."

While the Parachute look may not be for everybody it has certainly pleased enough "courageous" people to parachute Parnass and Pelly to the forefront of avant-garde fashion.

### Debora Kuchmé

Debora Kuchmé has arrived. After almost five years with her own label, she is now hailed as one of Canada's premier designers.

Her latest coups are proof enough of that: her creations were part of a fashion show organized for the Duke and Duchess of York during their visit to Toronto last year; she is a finalist for the Woolmark Award recognizing outstanding Canadian talent in clothing design; and recently Kuchmé was invited to participate in the Festival of Canadian Fashion, Spring/Summer '88.

Concerned with quality as well as novelty, Kuchmé is committed to using only the best fabrics and is continually increasing the variety of her creations. Designed primarily for the professional woman, her collections enhance the female form while promoting style and understated elegance.

Debora Kuchmé began her professional career in Toronto in 1975 as patternmaker for Canadian designers Wayne Clark and Aline Marelle. Within months, she was creating her first evening wear line.

After five years, Kuchmé moved to The Monaco Group (then known as Ms Originals) which subsequently introduced the Debora Kuchmé day wear collection. But she longed for independence and after three years there, Kuchmé left to start her own label. Joining forces with Monty Millberg, a New York City dress manufacturer, she launched the "Debora Kuchmé" line of women's apparel.

"I was supposed to move to New York," recounts Kuchmé, "but Canada is my home — I love it here and finally decided that it's where I want to stay." Her decision to remain was not part of some big plan: "I don't like strategies; you get too many disappointments that way."

Today, 75 per cent of Kuchmé's business is in the United States. Bonwit Teller, Bergdorf Goodman, Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor, and Bloomingdales — all

Designed primarily for the professional woman, Kuchmé's collections promote style and understated elegance.



well-known American retailers — carry the Kuchmé line. For fall 1988, a sporty casual line under the American label "Sketches" is also planned.

Recently Kuchmé ventured into a new area: manufacturing. Founded only last year, Kuchmé Manufacturing Ltd. enables the Debora Kuchmé line to be produced in Canada, then sold and shipped directly from Toronto headquarters.

Indeed Kuchmé has arrived . . . and it looks as though she is here to stay.

### Zonda Nellis

Clothes by Vancouver fashion designer Zonda Nellis are known in many circles as the latest rage. Her creations have been worn by such celebrities as Catherine Oxenberg on the U.S. television series "Dynasty," and by Phylicia Rashad on "The Cosby Show." And Nellis' designs sell in the most sophisticated stores in the United States, including Nieman-Marcus and Bergdorf Goodman. In Canada, her fashions are sold at E.A. Lee Ltd. and at Nellis' new atelier, both in Vancouver.

Spénard's collections use practical colours, simple lines and synthetic blends which keep prices and dry cleaning costs to a minimum.

The price tags are platinum — from \$800 for a two-piece suit to \$1 800 for a four-piece outfit — and bring Nellis more than \$1 million in sales per year, ranking her as a major Canadian entrepreneur as well as a designer of international acclaim. Her name is at home among those of Giorgio Armani, Yves Saint-Laurent, Gianni Versace and Sonia Rykiel.

In spite of her success, Nellis remains humble, shrugging off her talent as being simply "instinctual." And she chooses not to live in New York or Los Angeles where she could do more business, but in Vancouver on Canada's west coast because she likes it there.

Zonda Nellis' designs are classic "good transition clothes" such as dresses, suits and wraps which can be donned as day-to-evening wear. The fabric is made from hand-dyed yarns combining linen, cotton, silk, rayon and metallic threads.

"I was in Egypt for about three months," she says. "I developed my fabric from one piece of material that I saw there. The Egyptian cloth wasn't anything like mine is, but the sense of the fabric was similar."

Nellis is quick to point out that she has made it on her own, without any financial assistance. She started small, selling her wares at craft fairs along the west coast and soon realized that her designs could sell anywhere. She was right. The combination of design and artistry has made the Zonda Nellis collection a unique statement in the competitive world of high fashion and surely a force to be reckoned with for years to come.

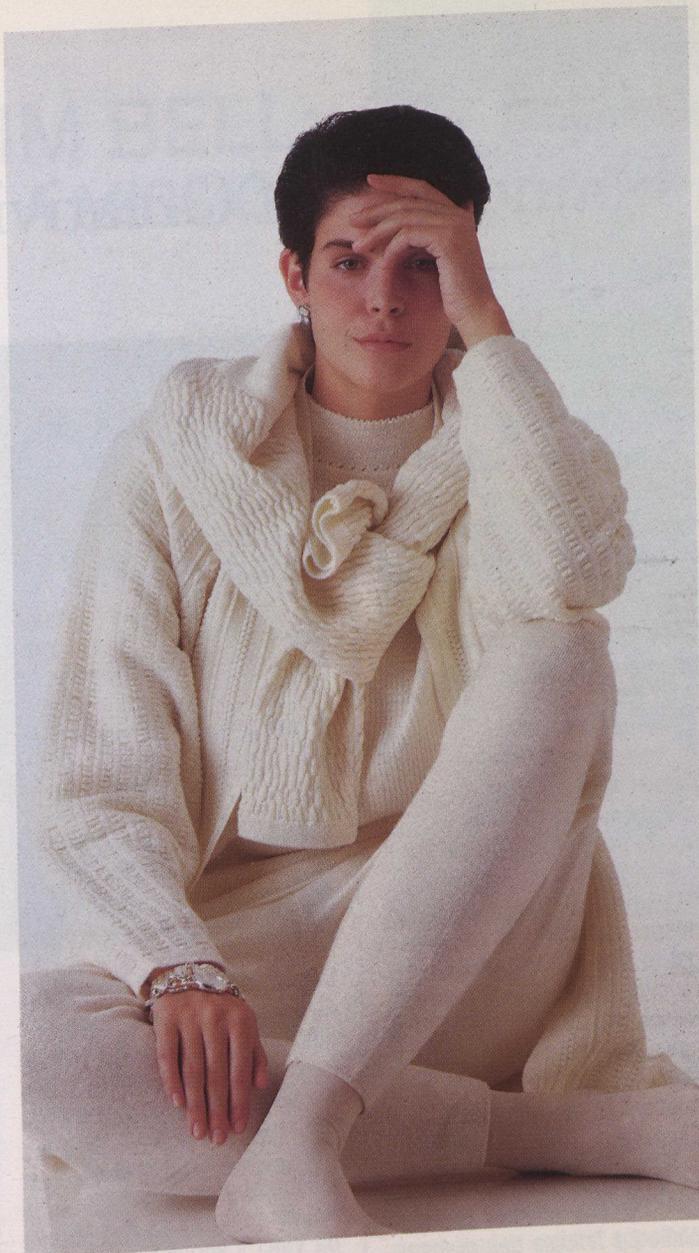


Photo: Pascal Martinière

## Lyse Spénard

Fashions by French Canadian designer Lyse Spénard have been a resounding success since their introduction two years ago. Synonymous with the current interpretation of female elegance — comfortable chic — the Lyse Spénard collection has what it takes to please the contemporary woman.

"My customer is not a woman who spends a half-hour in front of the mirror every morning, and she's not likely to spend an entire paycheck on a sweater . . . fashion is just one element in her life." With this in mind, Spénard designs her collection using practical colours, simple lines and synthetic-blend fabrics which keep prices and dry cleaning costs to a minimum. But one shouldn't be fooled by the sensible aspect — these clothes are sophisticated, feminine and very stylish.

Spénard, a graduate from Le Collège Lasalle, a fashion merchandising school in Montreal, entered the professional world of fashion as a buyer for Holt Renfrew, a major Canadian retailer.

After that, she went to work for Stanlyse Inc. as a marketer, and later was asked to create her own line for the company. Spénard's experience in the business aspect of the industry combined with her flair for design has helped her create popular fashions with wholesale revenues in Canada exceeding \$9 million per year.

Beginning this spring, the Lyse Spénard collection is being sold in the United States. First-year sales are estimated at \$7 million. Spénard's designs will be available at such well-known stores as Bloomingdale's, Lord and Taylor, Bullock Wilshire, Burdines, Dillard's, as well as several prestigious specialty boutiques.

## Canada at Liberty

One of Europe's most prestigious retail stores, Liberty of Regent Street in London, will mount a major promotion of Canada focusing on Canadian fashion this fall.

The Canadian government took the initiative by inviting Liberty buyers to visit Canada last October. They were astounded at the quality of contemporary Canadian fashion design which not only meets international standards of creative excellence but has not, generally speaking, had much exposure in Europe.

The promotion will cover fashion design clothing and accessories as well as furniture, ceramics, glass, books, food, visual arts and sculpture and will begin with a major fashion show at Liberty's at the end of September. The entire promotion will last more than three weeks and will occupy 557 m<sup>2</sup> of Liberty's Regent Street store. Everything promoted will be for sale and it is anticipated that several of the 20 or so Canadian designers participating will be launching major international careers by virtue of this event.

# Robert Lepage:

## Pushing the Boundaries of Creativity

**A** tape measure symbolizes the greatest achievement of civilization. A kitchen table serves as a door to another world. With images like these, playwright-actor Robert Lepage is extending the boundaries of experimental theatre, while building a reputation as one of Canada's most creative and insightful stage performers.

Lepage's approach to theatre is innovative and highly interactive. A former student of Swiss-born director Alan Knapp, Lepage adheres to the Knapp principle that creation must take place within rigorously defined limits. As Lepage explains, "When one creates through a filter, what comes out is something pure. The more a creator imposes limits on himself, the more his output will be pure, strong and poetic."

Highly experimental, Lepage's plays can change dramatically from one performance to the next based on the interaction between actor and audience. And equally innovative is his practice of creating "globally" — of being directly involved in a production's writing, acting, directing, designing, composing, and even translation.

Enthusiastically received by the public and critics alike, Lepage's plays have been extremely successful. *La Trilogie des dragons* (A Trilogy of Dragons), a critically acclaimed, six-hour production won the 1987 Grand Prix du Festival de théâtre des Amériques. Created collaboratively by Lepage and five colleagues, the show focuses on three

Canadian Chinatowns at different periods in history, each represented by a dragon in Chinese mythology.

The linear confines of a Quebec City parking lot, covering the site of a once vibrant Chinese community, contribute to the production's overall themes. As the show's prologue states: "If you scrape this parking lot with your hands, you will find motor oil and various objects from everyday life. If you dig deeper, you will find the foundations of the houses inhabited by the Chinese — glass, jade, china, personal belongings. And if you go deeper and deeper, you will get to China." With this, Lepage establishes the three levels and plays of the trilogy. The first play is near everyday life, the second as mysterious as the objects uncovered, while the third is inspired by oriental philosophy.

While *La Trilogie des dragons* revolves almost entirely around natural elements, Lepage goes to the other end of the spectrum with *Vinci*, a brazenly high-tech production featuring visual, audio and special effects, as well as elaborate staging.

Just like the parking lot in *Dragons*, the technology becomes the rigid bounds within which Lepage creates. *Vinci* portrays the conflict between an artist and his work, telling the story of a young Canadian artist who goes overseas to clarify his own ideas by following in the tracks of Leonardo da Vinci. The geographic odyssey becomes a symbol for the intensely personal quest that every genuine artist pursues.



Lepage's brilliance lies in his ability to translate an internal individual struggle into visual form. As Philippe delves into his obsessions and questions the relevance of his creative work, the audience is as touched by his quest for artistic integrity as it is by da Vinci's anguish.

*Vinci* completed an overwhelmingly successful European tour in 1987, during which it received the coveted Prix d'Avignon in France and awards in Switzerland and England.

And as the new year dawned, Lepage undertook an ambitious Canadian tour culminating in five performances at the Olympic Arts Festival. By the time he went onstage in Calgary, Lepage had already performed *Vinci* about 200 times in English and French.

**Lepage: extending the boundaries of experimental theatre.**

Lepage represents a new generation of Quebec theatre artists whose work reflects a growing tradition of bilingualism. When *Vinci* was translated into English, Lepage played a collaborative role to ensure that the subtleties of his creation were not lost. Says his agent, Jean-Pierre St. Michel, "Lepage's culture is truly bilingual, truly Canadian." And his work even extends beyond English and French to include Italian script in *Vinci* and Chinese in *La Trilogie des dragons*.

Whether Lepage performs in French or English Canada, in the United States or Europe, the public response is the same. "Lepage is very open to international contact," notes St. Michel. "On a cultural level, he touches people from all nations. He touches people with a universal message."

# JOHN KIM BELL: A MAN WITH A MISSION

**B**orn on the Kahnawake Mohawk Indian Reserve near Montreal, he was a successful conductor and pianist on Broadway while still in his teens. Before age 30, he became the world's first North American Indian symphony conductor.

Then in 1984, after being featured in a Canadian documentary profiling his achievements, John Kim Bell became an instant national hero for thousands of Canadians. Inundated with requests from parents, teachers and native youth for information on how young natives might acquire training in the arts, Bell saw the need to create the Canadian Native Arts Foundation (CNAF) in 1985. Having started on a shoestring budget, Bell has already proven his business acumen — he is well on his way to turning the Toronto-based organization into a multimillion dollar foundation.

Bell, 35, is the son of Don Eagle, who played the violin before becoming a television wrestling champion in the 1950s. Bell later moved to Ohio with his mother, Beth Hamilton Bell, an American musician and actress. However, he returned each summer to spend his holidays on the Kahnawake Reserve with his father.

At university Bell worked professionally, conducting for touring companies and summer productions. In 1975 he graduated from Ohio State University where he studied piano, conducting and composition. He then went on to work on more than 30 Broadway musicals.

While conducting *A Chorus Line* in Toronto Bell was noticed by members of the Toronto Symphony. They asked Andrew Davis, Toronto Symphony music director, to audition Bell for a position with the orchestra. As things turned out, Bell was made apprentice conductor for the 1980–81 season. Since then, his musical accomplishments and the arts foundation have brought him widespread acclaim.

Bell started the CNAF with \$35 000 of his own money and a bank loan of \$85 000. Then came an aggressive campaign to generate funding for the organization from the public and corporate sectors.

The first gala benefit concert for the foundation was produced and conducted by Bell in February 1987. Not only did the show receive rave reviews, it successfully generated \$67 000 for the arts foundation.

Funds raised thus far have supported a visit by the Canadian Opera Company to Ontario reserve schools to promote appreciation of opera, a northern Canadian tour by folk singer Valdy, and an international moccasin-making competition. Last December, the foundation gave grants totalling \$48 000 to help talented native youths pursue education in fields ranging from the visual arts to dance.

Before undertaking this colossal job, Bell read every available report on native problems and issues, and studied the American method of art funding with its emphasis on corporate sponsorship. His plan is to have the founda-



John Kim Bell is the world's first North American Indian symphony conductor.

ation self-sufficient in 10 years. The three goals of CNAF are very clear in Bell's mind: to increase native awareness of artistic opportunities, to provide funding for educational programs, and to support promising native artists in career development.

Currently, the foundation has a major performance project in the works; it will be presenting the first-ever full length contemporary native ballet. *In the Land of Spirits* will make its debut at Ottawa's National Arts Centre in November. The work will draw on the talents of natives at every level of production, from the dancers and set designers to the creators of masks and costumes. Although the core of the ballet is an Ojibwa legend, it addresses issues of importance to modern native life.

Meanwhile Bell remains busy. Last December he became the first North American Indian to conduct London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert presented by the native group, Indigenous Survival International. In January, he finished composing the score for a Public Broadcasting System television mini-series, "The Trial of Standing Bear," which aired in Canada and the United States in February. Bell is also active as a spokesperson for the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program.

But Bell's most ambitious project by far remains the arts foundation. For this he has put both his personal and professional life on hold. "When we get three to five million dollars in the foundation, when things are running smoothly, then I'll happily bow out." Says Bell, "Believe me . . . I'd be happy to go back to being just a musician again."

# Ottawa: A Capital Lifestyle



**T**o the eye, Ottawa is a city of spires. High on a cliff above the Ottawa River, the Parliament buildings exhibit a medieval splendour. Their Gothic towers, together with the silver spires of the church of Notre-Dame, the glass dome of the National Gallery, the fairytale turrets of the Chateau Laurier Hotel, and the soaring roofline of the Supreme Court, form a skyline that is instantly recognizable and instantly enchanting.

Ottawa feels "small" — the city proper has little more than 300 000 residents. It is surrounded, however, by a network of 26 neighbouring communities that bring the metropolitan population to well over 800 000. Ottawa therefore ranks as Canada's fourth-largest population area.

Ottawa's origins date back to 1827 when the Rideau canal was built to provide uninterrupted navigation between Montreal and Lake Ontario. The economic potential of the area's huge stands of red and white pine was soon discovered, lumbering flourished, and so did a small settlement at the confluence of the Ottawa and Rideau rivers.

In 1840, politicians began looking for a new national capital. In the end, it was the

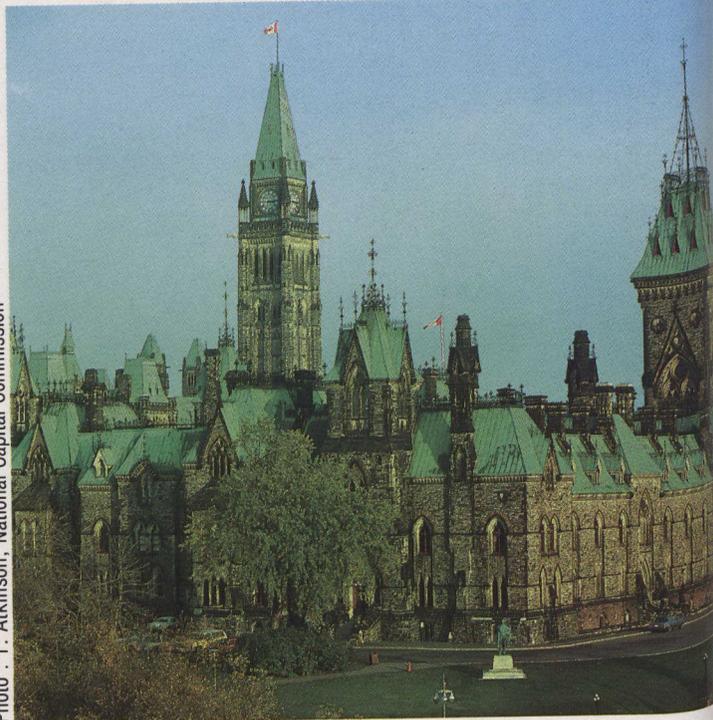
lumber town's spectacular site on a cliff overlooking the majestic Ottawa River, along with its secure location at the junction of French- and English-speaking settlements, that impressed Queen Victoria. In 1857, the British monarch chose Ottawa as Canada's capital. Today, the bilingual character prevails and many Ottawans are comfortable speaking English and French.

Beginning with the construction of the Parliament buildings, the city expanded over the years both in size and sophistication, and came to assume its contemporary character as the seat of Canadian political life.

Today, Ottawa's character and activities are dominated by the federal government. Over 90 government organizations are headquartered in Ottawa and employ more than one-third of the working population. Some 400 national and international organizations have unrivaled opportunities to interact with the Canadian government and influence decision-makers.

Pleasure and business alike have made the tourism and convention industry second only to government. Sophisticated new meeting facilities, hotels and restaurants have combined to establish Ottawa as a convention destination of world calibre. Three million visitors a year come for Ottawa's unique blend of history, culture and natural attractions or to learn how the nation is governed.

Photo: T. Atkinson, National Capital Commission



High on a cliff overlooking the Ottawa River, the Parliament buildings give an aura of medieval splendour.

Ottawa's basic economy has been vigorously supported with the emergence in the late sixties of a vital high-technology sector. Firms in the telecommunications, computer and electronics fields have provided Ottawa and its satellite cities with the reputation of a world-class centre for high technology. From the powerful Bell Northern Research/Bell Canada/Northern Telecom telecommunications triumvirate to a variety of smaller companies such as CAL (Canadian Astronautics Limited), Spar Aerospace and Cognos, all are producing state-of-the-art technology in the city in their respective fields.

Among Ottawa's many shopping areas is Sparks Street — Canada's oldest outdoor pedestrian mall and the first of its kind in North America. For nearly 30 years now, summertime crowds have been coming to the mall to wander from shop to shop, eat ice cream and relax in the sunshine watching buskers, from guitarists and mime artists to dancers and magicians.

From earliest days, the commercial life of the city has revolved around the Byward Market, established in 1828 and still going strong as Ottawa's oldest outdoor farmers' market. From the first warm, melting days of spring right up to Christmas, the streets of the market are lined with stalls offering seasonal produce that ranges from maple syrup and flowers in spring to pumpkins and firewood in fall.

The original market building has now been given over to arts and crafts, and the farmers' market and the little specialty shops that line the streets have been joined by dozens of restaurants, pubs, galleries and high-fashion boutiques. This is one of the places that Ottawans frequent in search of food, entertainment and sophisticated shopping.

Life in Ottawa is very much defined by its proximity to nature, and by the incredible accessibility of lakes and forest to city-dwellers. The hills of the 35 600-ha Gati-neau Park and the forests of the Greenbelt (a remarkable band of protected field, forest and marshland that partly surrounds Ottawa) lie only minutes from downtown. Unlike most large cities where nature tends to disappear under concrete and asphalt, Ottawa's river banks are more often lined with parks and beaches than buildings.

Winter offers a variety of outdoor diversions. There are more than a dozen ski resorts operating within a 20-minute drive of Parliament Hill and 200 km of cross-country ski trails wend their way through the Gatineau Hills and city parks. Ottawa also boasts the world's largest outdoor

skating rink, when an 8-km stretch of the Rideau Canal is cleared and its giant ice surface becomes the focus of the Winterlude Festival. Briefcase in tow, business people even skate to work.

In May, Ottawa explodes with colour during the Festival of Spring. For 10 days, the city is adorned with more than one million tulips, the gift of a grateful Dutch government, after Ottawa offered refuge to Princess Juliana of the Netherlands and her family during the Second World War.

In summer, the Rideau Canal brings thousands of small recreational vessels up from the Great Lakes, while glass-covered excursion boats provide a leisurely way of exploring the city's waterways. Bicyclers and joggers abound, and there are many kilometres of bicycle trails. Some roads are even closed to auto traffic on Sundays, allowing free rein to hikers, joggers and cyclers.

Autumn is no less spectacular. In the Gatineau Hills, on any sunny October day, gold and scarlet trees seem to burn with a light of their

The National Arts Centre is located in the heart of downtown Ottawa.

own, and huge crowds turn out to walk the forests during an annual celebration called Fall Rhapsody.

Much of the city's cultural life has blossomed thanks to the efforts of the federal government which over the years has created first-class facilities to nurture and encourage performing arts. The country's cultural show-place, the National Arts Centre (NAC), opened in Ottawa in 1969. Home to the NAC Symphony Orchestra, it also offers a regular program of music, dance and theatre from all over the country and, indeed, the world.

Complementing the work of the NAC, is an increasing number of small professional and amateur theatre companies that perform in either English or French. In addition, cabaret-and-dinner theatre is becoming increasingly popular in cafés and restaurants, along with two new stand-up comedy clubs.

An exceptionally wide range of cultural institutions is also concentrated in Ottawa, including seven national museums. This year will offer visitors an especially rich experience with the opening of the new, glass-towered National Gallery designed by the world-renowned Canadian architect Moshe Safdie. Next year the new Museum of Civilization, which will open across the river in Hull, will trace the historical and cultural development of Canada, including that of its native peoples.

Considering the nature of Ottawa's industries, the residents of the area are generally a highly educated group. As a percentage of population, there are more PhDs than elsewhere in the country. Carleton University and the fully bilingual University of Ottawa have a combined full-time enrolment of more than 20 000 students. Ottawa also boasts Canada's largest bilingual community college.

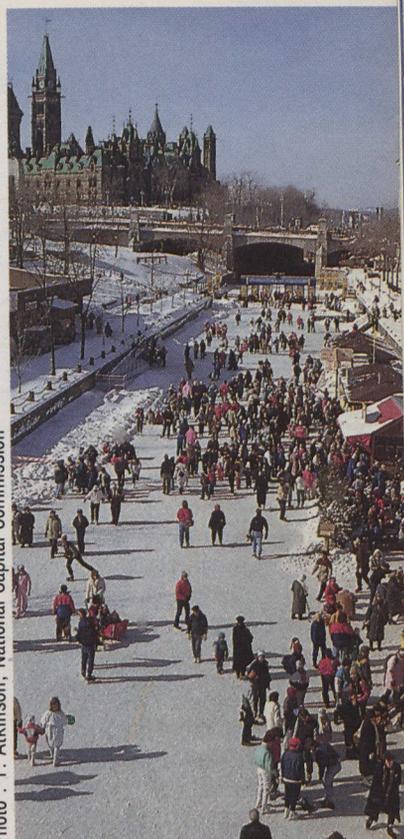


Photo: T. Atkinson, National Capital Commission

The Rideau Canal: the world's largest outdoor skating rink.

The majority of residents of French or British descent have been joined by immigrants from every corner of the world. Their presence in the Ottawa region enriches many aspects of life, from architecture and shopping to food and festivals. For example, there is a burgeoning Chinatown just west of downtown Ottawa, not far from an older district called Little Italy, and the streets in both areas are lined with ethnic shops, restaurants and grocery stores.

Modest in scale, rich in language and culture, and strongly rooted in nature, Ottawa embodies much that is central to the Canadian experience.

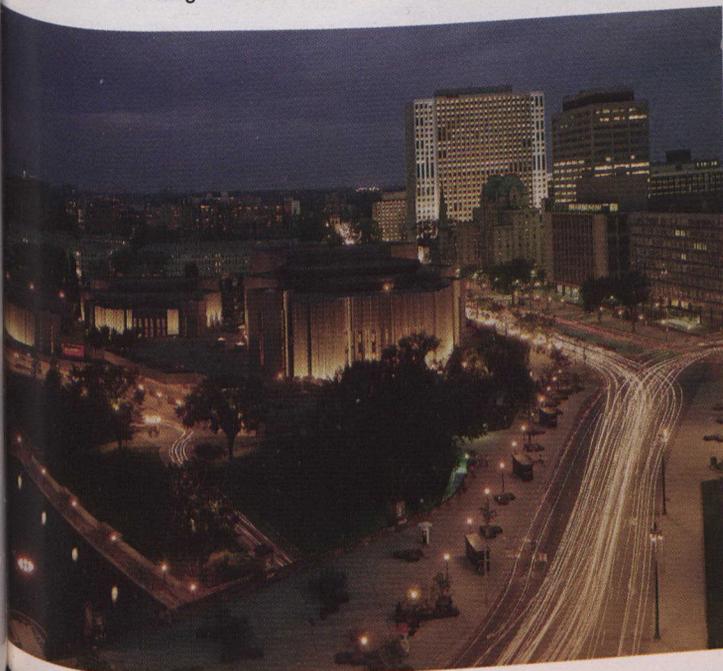


Photo: Malak

# CROSS CANADA CURRENTS

## Ballet's Orient Express

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet's (RWB) recent tour de force of seven Asia-Pacific countries was an "Orient Express" of a different kind — but one that captured the original's spirit of elegance, beauty and grace.

Founded nearly a half century ago, Canada's internationally acclaimed Royal Winnipeg Ballet had performed in 31 countries prior to its recent tour, but never before in Asia. Yet it was greeted with

unprecedented enthusiasm during its seven-week tour of the Far East. Each performance was attended by large, appreciative crowds and praised by local dance critics.

In tropical Kuala Lumpur no ballet company had ever sold out before, even though most had played in small theatres. But when the RWB arrived in the Malaysian capital, it performed before a sell-out audience of 3 500, and organizers were forced to turn people away at the door.

And in Bangkok, the troupe's performance was a highlight of the birthday festivities for Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej. From its inaugural January performances in Taiwan through those in Singapore and Hong Kong, to its shows in the major Japanese cities of Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto, and performances in Beijing and Hangzhou in the People's

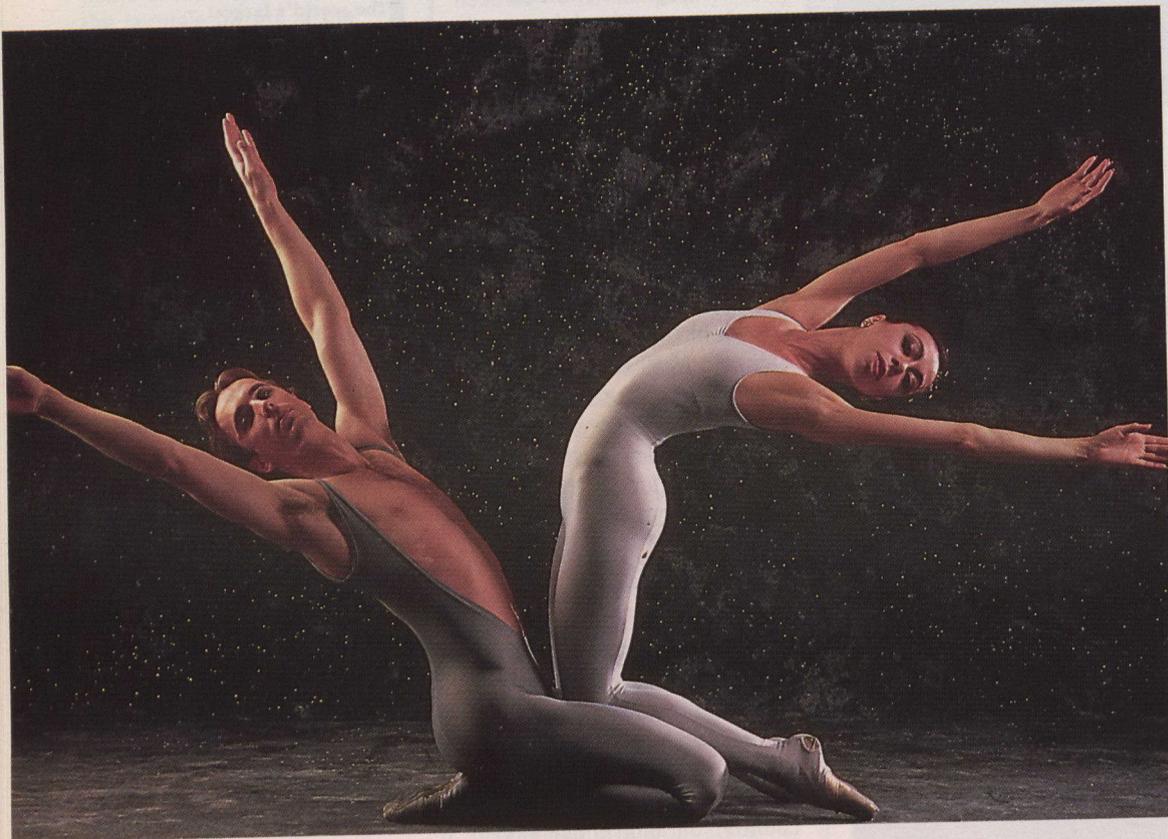
Sarah Slipper and André Lewis in Norbert Vesak's, *Belong*, which won gold medals for choreography.

Republic of China, the RWB's Asia-Pacific tour was an unqualified success.

During the tour, the Winnipeg troupe presented three different programs selected to highlight the company's versatility and showcase the talents of its leading artists, including principal dancer Evelyn Hart. The first program was devoted to the troupe's acclaimed full-length production of the classical ballet *Giselle*. In Tokyo the performance was filmed for later broadcast on the Japanese national television service.

The other two programs of mixed repertoire featured works ranging from the haunting *Pas de Deux: Nuages* to the jaunty "country hoedown" style *Rodeo*, and included two Canadian works — *The Hands* by the late Paddy Stone and Norbert Vesak's *Belong*, which won the gold medal for choreography in 1980 at both the World Ballet Concours in Japan and the International Ballet competitions in Bulgaria.

At the conclusion of the tour in March, Canada's oldest classical ballet troupe returned to its home in Winnipeg and its lavish new headquarters. The airy four-storey structure, which officially opened in January, is being hailed as the finest dance rehearsal facility in North America. Designed and built specifically for dancers, it is only the second such structure on the continent. As it approaches its 50th birthday next year, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet is enjoying new comforts at home and new conquests abroad.



## In the Land of the Midnight Sun

It was the challenge of a lifetime. Travelling across wind-blown plains in temperatures of  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 24-hour sunlight, 11 adventurers completed a gruelling three-month journey across the North Pole. The trip marked not only a triumph over some of nature's harshest extremes, but also the first ever joint Canada-U.S.S.R. Arctic crossing.

The expedition team, dubbed Polar Bridge, consisted of four Canadians and seven Soviets. They travelled by ski and inflatable raft from the northernmost tip of Siberia over the Arctic ice cap to Cape Columbia on Canada's Ellesmere Island. The first northern crossing to begin and end on separate continents, it was also the only such journey ever made without sled dogs or snowmobiles.

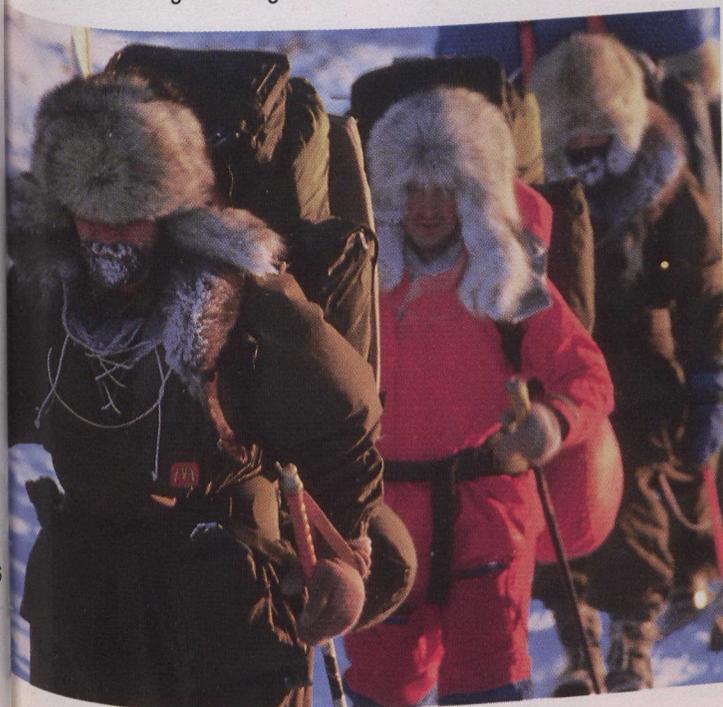
The team traversed nearly 2 000 km of treacherous snow, ice and water in their odyssey. They crossed regions of dangerously unpredictable moving ice, navigated 20-km stretches of open ocean water and scaled jagged ice ridges as high as

six-storey buildings — all while carrying and pulling a half-tonne of special equipment, clothing and food. Along the way they also conducted a number of medical, psychological and geomagnetic experiments.

Tracked by airplane and satellite, the team had their food supply replenished by food drops every 15 days. Their diet consisted mainly of dried fish, bacon and pemmican — a mixture of meat, fat and berries originally developed by North American Indians.

The expedition was led by Russian folk hero Dmitry Shparo and noted Canadian adventurer Richard Weber, both experienced in northern survival techniques from earlier trips to the Pole. Although the expedition was a first for the other members of the

The first-ever joint Canada-U.S.S.R. Arctic crossing: 11 adventurers on a gruelling three-month journey across windblown plains in 24-hour sunlight and temperatures of  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



Canadian team, they were all well qualified to meet its rigorous demands. Dr. Maxwell Buxton had previously served on an Arctic oil exploration team; the Rev. Laurie Dexter lives in a remote northern community in Canada's Northwest Territories; and Christopher Holloway was a member of Canada's National Ski Team for eight years.

The success of the trip was in large part due to the team's careful preparations. All members were in top physical condition and thoroughly examined by physicians before the journey began. Last fall the adventurers trained for six weeks in the U.S.S.R.'s Tian Shan Mountains and at Canada's Frobisher Bay. And in the weeks immediately prior to the expedition launch, they prepared at a camp in Siberia and spent long hours of

"acclimatization" in a special cold chamber in Moscow. Here they learned how to use their instruments in  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$  temperatures and often slept in the chamber at night to prepare for the conditions they would face in their tent on the Arctic plains.

The Polar Bridge's amazing feat was highlighted with a televised ceremony at the North Pole, in which the members appealed for world peace and co-operation. Their success in conquering the harsh environment and daunting odds is a vivid demonstration of just how much international co-operation can achieve and has enhanced relations between the two largest nations ringing the Arctic Circle.

## Radio Channel to China

"Canadian" English will soon be the subject of study for millions of people across China. In September, radio stations in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou will begin broadcasting "Everyday English," a 40-week course of English-language lessons produced by Radio Canada International (RCI).

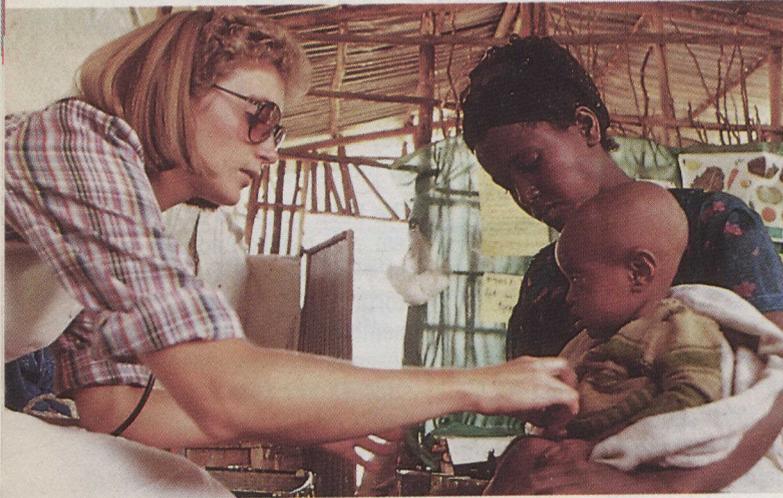
RCI is not the first international broadcaster to offer English lessons by radio. However, it is the first to design a specific course targeted at listeners in a single country. All earlier courses have been general in nature, aimed at students of English anywhere in the world. But as Allan Familiant, RCI's director of programming and operations notes, "This course is significantly different because it is tailor-made for the People's Republic of China."

In another major innovation, the program will be carried by local radio stations, rather than broadcast by the traditional shortwave. As a result, it will reach an enlarged audience of between 15 and 20 million.

The 120 lessons making up the course revolve around the storyline of a visit to Canada by a group of Chinese students. Beginning with the group's arrival in Montreal, subsequent lessons follow them as they travel across the country, learning about Canada's geography, resources, industries, culture, and political and social systems.

This is RCI's second major Asian venture this year. In April it launched an ambitious daily shortwave service to the region in English and French, and expanded its Russian and Ukrainian broadcasts to Soviet Asia.

## Sharing Our Future



© CIDA/David Barbour

Sharing Our Future is the theme that will guide Canada's new official development aid (ODA) program into the next century. Announced in March 1988, the strategy outlines new directions, programs and commitments that will affect and sometimes fundamentally change the way Canadians contribute to world development.

Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Development, noted that the new strategy entitled *Sharing Our Future* "says much about us as a nation, that Canadians accept their responsibility to be partners in building a better world — not only for their children, but for all the world's children."

The centrepiece of the strategy is the new ODA Charter, which establishes four principles to guide Canada's development policy. First, Canada will concentrate its aid on the poorest people and nations through a new eligibility determining formula. Second, the fundamental principle of promoting self-reliance will emphasize human resource development as the central programming thrust of initiatives. Third, the new Charter is designed to ensure that Canadian development priorities prevail. These include

Canadians working to build a better world — for all the world's children.

poverty alleviation, structural adjustment, a greater role for women in development, environmentally sound development projects, security of food, and enhanced availability of energy.

To that end, the ODA policy is more flexible, allowing modifications in the scope and nature of Canadian aid to meet individual nations' unique needs and taking into account human rights performance. Finally, partnerships are being fostered with Canadian and international non-governmental organizations, business and multilateral institutions which plan and implement development programs and projects. One-half of Canada's ODA will go to such initiatives; the other half is committed to the government's bilateral aid.

A series of measures is also included to improve aid delivery. There will be a substantial decentralization of personnel and approval authority to the field. Bilateral aid will reduce the levels of required Canadian procurement from 80 to 50 per cent for sub-Saharan and least-developed countries, and to 66.7 per cent for other developing countries.

## New Cancer Test Developed

Following two years of intensive research, a Canadian company Biomira Inc. has developed a new test for diagnosing gastro-intestinal and pancreatic cancer. The new product, called Truquant GI RIA is an easy-to-use, quick and accurate method of testing for cancer, reducing both the absolute time and number of steps involved in lab procedures.

The new test uses a "tracer" protein antibody containing a radio-active particle. The "tracer" can distinguish between different molecular structures and binds to a complex, tumour-associated sugar which is found in greatly elevated levels in cancer patients. In the test, a patient's blood serum and the protein are mixed together in a test tube coated with the special sugar. If cancerous material is present in the serum the antibody will bind to it; if not, the antibody

binds to the test tube. After three hours the test tube is emptied and scanned for radio-active emissions. The resulting readings serve as quantitative measures indicating either the absence, or presence and level of cancerous material.

Truquant GI RIA's short test period of three hours is a major improvement over other commercially available tests which take up to eight hours to produce results. As well, Biomira has also developed a test using similar techniques for the detection of ovarian cancer.

Biomira reports that since the launch of Truquant GI RIA late last year, interest in and sales of the product are growing. Currently, Biomira is negotiating with companies in Japan and Europe for the rights to distribute and use its kits, and expects to garner a large share of these markets.

## Mind Games

Calgary was not the only Canadian city to host a major international sporting event this year. While the athletes of the Winter Olympics were competing on Canada's western mountain ranges, chess masters matched wits at the World Chess Festival in Saint John, New Brunswick, on Canada's east coast.

The most prestigious competition of the royal sport ever staged in North America, the month-long festival attracted over 1 000 participants from 38 countries. The élite of the chess world, including current world champion Garry Kasparov, three former champions and most of the world's 50 top-ranked players, thrilled audiences with their classic displays of mental combat.

The crucial candidates matches — the most impor-

tant games in the chess world this year — determined the seven grandmasters who will advance to the quarter finals of the 1990 world championships. To the delight of the audience, Canadian grandmaster Kevin Spraggett staged a stunning victory over Soviet star Andrei Sokolov to win a spot in the semi-finals.

As the competitors played before enthusiastic crowds in Saint John's Trade and Convention Centre, each move was recorded by electronic sensors embedded in the chess board and instantaneously re-created on giant television screens. Sound and motion detectors deployed throughout the hall monitored and warned the crowd when its activity became too brisk or threatened the concentration of the players.

The festival also featured two international tournaments for ranked players, a first ever world amateur championship, two open tournaments and a concluding rapid blitz championship: Blitz chess, a favourite of the crowds, is a frantic version of the game in which players have only five minutes to make their moves.

An outstanding success, the festival was highlighted by the brilliant play of Kasparov and his arch-rival and former world champion, Anatoly Karpov. And chess fever spread beyond the competitors to the spectators and people of Saint John. Spontaneous chess games broke out between spectators from as far away as Colombia, Poland, Bangladesh, India

A checkmate for Canada at the World Chess Festival.

and Romania. Local citizens challenged strangers to games at shopping malls and studied books to sharpen their chess strategies. An army of local volunteers also helped to organize and run the competitions. Indeed, volunteers were so numerous that officials were forced to turn down offers of assistance from 200 individuals.

Unlike most other games or disciplines in the world, chess is a game where chance plays no part. Its seductive challenge lies in the fact that every loss is the result of a mistake and therefore preventable. Officials believe that the festival has heightened North American interest in chess, and inspired many Canadians to take up the quest for mastery of this ultimate mind game.



© Luis Castañeda/The Image Bank Canada

## Furthering the Fight against AIDS

Canada is making significant new contributions to the global fight against acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), the fatal disease that continues to threaten and claim thousands of lives throughout the world.

The fifth International Conference on AIDS, with the theme Breaking New Ground: Towards Global Action on

Aids, will be hosted by Canada in June 1989. Jointly sponsored by the Canadian government and the World Health Organization, it will focus on the scientific and social challenges posed by the disease. An anticipated 7 500 to 10 000 public policy makers, medical and social scientists, and representatives of community-based

AIDS organizations will meet in Montreal to discuss their different perspectives on the disease and the means of checking its spread. Areas of concentration will include biomedical research, behavioural science studies, social and economic implications of AIDS, and public policy responses to the disease.

As well, Canada's first ever AIDS hospice was recently opened in Toronto, ushering in a new era of supportive treatment for AIDS sufferers. Located in two renovated Victorian homes, Casey House provides patients with 24-hour care in a home-like setting.

Funding for the centre came from both the provincial government and the generous

donations of the public. As a result, patients receive round-the-clock care from medical professionals, and the hospice is equipped with sophisticated health care equipment. There are computerized beds programmed to shift a patient's position automatically, a large bathtub which accommodates stretchers, and a specially designed shower for wheelchair use.

An innovative model of health care, Casey House is affiliated with a nearby hospital which monitors its expenditures and quality of care. A rapidly growing waiting list for spaces is evidence of the important need the hospice is filling for AIDS victims.

## Combating Terrorism

The international community has targetted airports as a new line of defence in the fight against terrorism. Forty-seven states recently signed a Protocol aimed at suppressing unlawful acts of violence at international airports. Marking the conclusion of a two-week diplomatic conference at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, the agreement was adopted by consensus in an unprecedented display of international co-operation.

The conference was the result of a Canadian proposal, endorsed by the ICAO Assembly in 1986, to develop a new legal instrument to deter and punish perpetrators of terrorist acts at international airports.

Increasingly, airports have become the targets of terrorist attacks. Yet until the February signing of the Protocol there existed no international legal framework for dealing with such offenses.

The new agreement fills the gap and is based upon the internationally accepted "extradite or prosecute" principle common to all previous anti-terrorist conventions. The goal is to eliminate safe havens for perpetrators of violence by requiring signatory states to either initiate legal proceedings against alleged offenders or extradite them to another state with jurisdiction over the offence.

The Protocol is a significant addition to the existing network of international anti-terrorist agreements. As both initiator of the proposal and chair of the diplomatic conference, Canada expects the agreement will foster increased international co-operation in the global fight against terrorism.



**BANC DE LA PAIX**

ROGER ALEXANDRE

To celebrate the UN's International Year of Peace in 1986, a poster competition was held throughout Canada. One of the winners was "Banc de la Paix" by Roger Alexandre from Saint-Jean-sur-le-Richelieu in Quebec.