

Preface

The 1973 edition of the *Canada Year Book* continues the series of annual reviews of social, economic and political developments in Canada. The series began in 1905 but earlier editions had appeared under other titles at varying intervals since 1867.

This edition introduces a number of changes in format necessitated by the increasing complexity of subject matter and by the inexorable rise in publishing costs. For example, textual and tabular materials have been separated within each chapter to simplify production. Any problems this might cause in relating text to relevant tables have been minimized by identifying each table both in the appropriate textual location and under its subject heading in the Contents at the front of the book. Another change is the emphasis on the use of charts and graphs in place of pictorial illustrations. Finally, lists of sources in each chapter provide references to additional information on each subject.

Along with the new format there are some changes in content which the reader will find of interest. As it is fifty years since the *Canada Year Book* carried a chapter on Canadian history this seemed an appropriate year to update the earlier article in order to provide a background to the developments recorded elsewhere in the book. Several chapters have been completely revised; for example, the health and welfare chapter has been completely re-written and the former electric power chapter now includes all forms of energy. A new chapter traces the legal system of Canada from its basis in the Constitution, through the court structure to the law enforcement agencies; and the demography chapter combines the former population, vital statistics and immigration chapters. Other chapters have, of course, been brought up to date to reflect changing conditions, including the final chapter on selected economic indicators which summarizes the national accounts.

The popular government organization chart is now presented in a different way. An abbreviated chart appears in Chapter 4 with a list of all departments and agencies, and these organizations are described in detail in Appendix 1 which will be issued separately for use with a detailed chart available from Information Canada. Since certain items, such as diplomatic appointments and sources of official information, are now readily available elsewhere their coverage in the *Canada Year Book* has been discontinued.

As the *Canada Year Book* is an annual reference work the information is that relating to events occurring up to the end of December 1972, unless otherwise stated.

We wish to acknowledge the continued co-operation of the many contributors who so willingly provided information for this issue.



Sylvia Ostry
Chief Statistician of Canada
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