

Preface


This special edition of the *Canada Year Book* should stand as a landmark in statistical records for it is a bridge between the old and new systems of measurement. All data in imperial units are repeated in metric and all imperial tables are followed by equivalent metric tables in colour for immediate identification.

It is planned that future editions will carry metric measurements only for many sectors of the economy. In other areas, both imperial and metric will be continued until conversion is complete.

The *Canada Year Book 1976-77* covers as much information as is usually contained in two separate editions. Since the series began in 1905, such double-year volumes have been produced periodically to provide continuity of reporting. An earlier series was published between 1885 and 1904, based on the first *Year-Book and Almanac of British North America for 1867*.

The latest information available at time of preparation is given. More than 600 tables, meticulously compiled from hundreds of official sources, provide details along with data from recent years. In every chapter, sources are listed. The appendices, going beyond statistics, give useful information about federal government departments and agencies, a summary of legislation of a two-year period, a chronology of significant events, Canadian honours, Canada's diplomatic and consular service, and books about Canada. The introductory article on Canada's conversion to the metric system was authorized by Metric Commission Canada.

This book could not have been compiled without the assistance and specialized knowledge of hundreds of experts outside of as well as within Statistics Canada. We gratefully acknowledge their contribution.



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