

Canadian chronology 1975 and 1976

Appendix 3

Events in the general chronology from 1497 to 1866 were published in the *1951 Canada Year Book*, pp 46-49; from 1867 to 1953 in the *1954 Canada Year Book*, pp 1259-1264; and annually from that year in successive editions. The following listing covers the years 1975 and 1976; it should be noted that certain dates are approximate. Acknowledgement is given to the publication *Canadian News Facts*, Toronto, which has served as a reference.

1975

January

Jan. 6, The Manitoba government announced a draft bill that would force legislators and senior provincial officials to disclose financial assets and business interests. *Jan. 8*, A Manitoba government working paper stated that restrictions on ownership of land by non-residents may be necessary to preserve the quality of life in rural Manitoba. *Jan. 10*, British Columbia Premier David Barrett proposed plans for an increase in the export price of natural gas from \$1 to \$1.35 a thousand cubic feet (\$35.30 to \$47.66 a km³) with \$1.93 (\$68.13 a km³) anticipated by the end of 1975, revenues to be shared by the three levels of government. *Jan. 13*, The Bank of Canada lowered its rate for loans to chartered banks to 8.25% from 8.75%. Several chartered banks lowered their prime rates from 11% to 10.5%. *Jan. 14*, Statistics Canada reported unemployment increased to 6.1% in December 1974, from 5.5% a month earlier, the highest rate in almost two years. The Canadian Transport Commission allowed increases in passenger rail fares by about 10% and 15% for Canadian National Railways and CP Rail respectively. The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency reported a national surplus of 40 million eggs in storage, increasing by about 15 million a week. Food continued to be the main reason for increases in the cost of living as prices rose through 1974 at the fastest rate in 26 years. *Jan. 17*, Defence Minister James Richardson announced creation of a separate Air Command in the Canadian Armed Forces and an 11.2% increase to \$2.8 billion in the defence budget. *Jan. 20*, Beryl Plumpre, chairman of the Food Prices Review Board, said that food prices in Canada would continue to increase at a 15% annual rate at least until mid-year, largely because of increased production costs and consumer preference for convenience foods. *Jan. 22*, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the declaration of International Women's Year in the House of Commons. *Jan. 23*, Secretary of State Hugh Faulkner announced a government proposal to end tax concessions to Canadian companies advertising in Canadian editions of foreign-owned periodicals. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation reduced its mortgage lending rate to 10.75% from 11.25%. External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen had started talks with US authorities aimed at ending US inter-

ference in Canadian trade in the wake of a sale of office furniture to Cuba by the Canadian subsidiary of a California-based company. *Jan. 25*, Death of Charlotte Whitton, 78, former social worker, journalist, and four times mayor of Ottawa. *Jan. 30*, Robert Welch, Ontario minister of culture and recreation, announced an Ontario lottery which could raise between \$40 and \$50 million a year for physical fitness, sports, recreation and cultural activities.

February

Feb. 3, A green paper on immigration was tabled in the House of Commons. *Feb. 4*, An agreement was announced by the federal, Alberta and Ontario governments to invest \$600 million in Syncrude Canada Ltd. for development of the Athabasca oil sands. *Feb. 6*, A five-part energy conservation program designed to cut national energy consumption by at least 2% in 1975 was outlined by Energy Minister Donald Macdonald. Secretary of State Hugh Faulkner announced Canada Council increases in grants to the performing arts to about \$17.5 million in the new fiscal year, up 38% from \$12.7 million. The Alberta government's 1975-76 budget called for a record expenditure of \$2.439 billion, a surplus of \$51 million and a 28% tax cut in Alberta's personal income tax which would make Albertans the lowest-taxed residents of Canada. *Feb. 10*, The regional economic expansion department announced federal government grants for 50% of the cost, up to \$18 million, for an underwater electrical cable from New Brunswick to Prince Edward Island, the only province solely dependent on oil-fired thermal stations for its electric power. *Feb. 11*, Statistics Canada reported a steep rise in unemployment in Ontario and a jump in the national seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate to 6.7% in January from 6.1% in December. *Feb. 19*, Federal spending estimates totalling \$28.242 billion for the 1975-76 fiscal year were tabled in the House of Commons. *Feb. 24*, An agreement in principle on freight rates, described as "a major breakthrough" for western Canada against transportation inequities, was announced jointly in Calgary by federal Transport Minister Jean Marchand and transport ministers from the western provinces. Barbara Frum, host of CBC radio's current affairs program *As It Happens*,