

# Preface

The *Canada Year Book 1978-79* follows a publication tradition dating back to 1905 which has furnished the public with an abundant source of information on social, economic and political conditions in Canada. This edition carries on the conversion to the metric system initiated in the *Canada Year Book 1976-77*. With few exceptions, units of measurement are given exclusively in metric for all sectors of the economy.

Every chapter has been revised to include the newest data available at the time of preparation, with sources listed at the end of text and tables for further reference. Chapters on health, education, housing and energy have been completely rewritten to reflect changing perspectives and new developments. A list of special articles from previous editions has been added, by popular request, to the appendices.

Material for the *Canada Year Book* is solicited from federal departments and agencies, provincial and territorial offices and numerous non-governmental organizations, as well as from our colleagues responsible for Statistics Canada surveys, census data and analyses. The book could never have been compiled in its present form were it not for the expertise of countless individuals and their willingness to provide concise information.

The budgetary pressures arising from continually rising prices, compounded with the recent federal government initiatives to effect general expenditure reductions, have forced Statistics Canada reluctantly to conclude that, henceforth, it can only publish the *Canada Year Book* every second year rather than annually. With the co-operation of our contributors, it will continue to record the Canadian scene, with the next edition due for release in 1980.



Peter Kirkham  
Chief Statistician of Canada  
Ottawa, December 1978