

Canadian chronology 1977

Appendix 3

Events in the general chronology from 1497 to 1866 were published in the *Canada Year Book 1951*, pp 46-49; from 1867 to 1953 in the *Canada Year Book 1954*, pp 1259-1264; and annually from that year in successive editions. The following listing covers the year 1977; it should be noted that certain dates are approximate. Acknowledgment is given to the publication *Canadian News Facts*, Toronto, which has served as a reference.

January

Jan. 4, Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan announced a \$26 million program to stabilize calf prices by paying subsidies to beef cow-calf producers. *Jan. 7*, Preliminary figures indicated a national record of 270,000 housing starts in 1976, up from 231,456 in 1975, Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. announced. *Jan 10*, Canada expelled four Cubans (including two diplomats) following an RCMP investigation into charges that the Cuban consulate in Montreal was being used to train spies. *Jan. 11*, Average seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for 1976 was 7.1% and the average estimated actual unemployed was 736,000, Statistics Canada reported; during 1975 the average seasonally-adjusted rate was 6.9% and the average estimated actual unemployed was 697,000. The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal overturned a lower court decision and upheld regulations enabling the provincial government to set quotas on potash production and floor prices on potash sales. *Jan. 12*, The Federal Court of Canada upheld a federal order restricting the use of French in Canadian airspace. Air Canada announced suspension of unprofitable regular flights to Moscow, Prague and Brussels, a revised domestic schedule, and increased domestic fares to offset an operating loss in 1976. Karen Kain and Frank Augustyn of the National Ballet, first Canadian dancers invited to perform with the Bolshoi Ballet, received a standing ovation in Moscow. *Jan. 13*, Average inflation rate for 1976 was 7.5% compared to 10.8% in 1975, Statistics Canada reported. *Jan. 14*, Metropolitan Toronto police announced formation of an ethnic squad to deal with Asian community problems in the wake of racially-motivated attacks. *Jan. 18*, McClelland and Stewart Ltd. in a joint venture with Bantam Books of Canada Ltd. said paperback books by Canadian authors would be published under the name Seal Books. *Jan. 21*, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau proposed to provincial premiers a revised formula for amending the constitution. The Canadian government requested an exemption for Canada from new US legislation making it more difficult for Americans to obtain tax deductions for expenses in attending conventions outside their own country. *Jan. 25*, Quebec Premier

René Lévesque told the Economic Club of New York that Quebec independence is inevitable, but assured bankers and investors that his government intended no large-scale nationalization of private industry. *Jan. 26*, External Affairs Minister Don Jamieson returned from Brazil, Peru and Colombia, after signing technical, scientific and financial co-operation agreements with the three countries. *Jan. 28*, US President Jimmy Carter thanked the Canadian government for selling extra emergency fuel supplies to the US to alleviate shortages during the unusually severe winter. *Jan. 31*, Joint winners of the Chalmers Canadian Play Award were W.O. Mitchell for *Back to Beulah* and Larry Fineberg for *Eve*.

February

Feb. 1, The three Maritime provinces and the federal government signed a memorandum of agreement which would give the three provinces 100% of royalties from future offshore mineral discoveries within 5 km (3 miles) of their coasts and 75% from resources outside that distance. *Feb. 3*, First allocations of a \$200 million Canada Works program to combat unemployment were announced by the Department of Manpower and Immigration. Death of Gregory Clark, 84, veteran Toronto journalist and raconteur. *Feb. 5*, Top honours at the Canadian figure skating championships won by Lynn Nightingale, ladies' singles, and Ron Shaver, men's singles. *Feb. 8*, Estimated actual unemployment in January rose from December's 754,000 to 889,000, the highest level since Statistics Canada began collecting labour force statistics in 1953; the seasonally-adjusted jobless rate remained at 7.5%. *Feb. 14*, Nova Scotia homeowners were offered financial assistance to improve insulation in a \$79.6 million energy conservation program announced jointly by the federal and provincial governments. A merger was announced for Unity Bank of Canada and Montreal-based Provincial Bank of Canada, reducing the number of chartered banks in Canada from 12 to 11. *Feb. 15*, Royal Bank of Canada announced the transfer of three head-office departments from Montreal to