

freeze after August 1, making more than 0.4 billion hectares (one billion acres) of land available for exploration and development in northern and offshore areas. *June 24*, Death of André Fortin, 33, federal leader of the Social Credit party, in a car accident. *June 28*, Gilles Caouette, son of the late Réal Caouette, former federal Social Credit party leader, named interim national leader of the Social Credit party. *June 30*, All opposition members walked out of the Quebec National Assembly after the Parti Québécois government dismissed the Liberal opposition's proposal of Canada Day birthday wishes.

July

July 1, Canada Day celebrations were held across the country marking the 110th anniversary of Confederation; highlighting the day was a nationally televised spectacular from Parliament Hill; in 1976 the festivities had been cancelled as an economy measure. *July 4*, After 18 months of hearings, the National Energy Board recommended federal Cabinet approval of a proposal by Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd. for a pipeline along the Alaska Highway to move natural gas from Alaska to US markets. *July 5*, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the formation of a special group to study national unity headed by Jean-Luc Pepin, former Liberal Cabinet minister, and John Robarts, former Progressive Conservative premier of Ontario. *July 6*, Solicitor General Fox announced the establishment of a royal commission headed by Mr. Justice David C. McDonald to investigate alleged illegal RCMP activities across the country. *July 8*, Recommendations to expand the use of French in Quebec in air traffic control of small planes under visual flight rules were supported by all parties in the House of Commons, the Canadian Air Traffic Control Association, and the Canadian Air Line Pilots Association. At a federal-provincial consumer ministers meeting, a code of rust resistance standards for car manufacturers and importers, announced by Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Anthony Abbott, received full provincial backing. Federal and British Columbia governments signed an agreement providing \$170 million in two five-year plans for industrial and agricultural development in the province. *July 12*, The Parti Québécois government introduced a new language bill, Bill 101, which eased some of the proposed provisions of the earlier Bill One, but stood firm on a proposal that only children whose mother or father had attended English elementary school in Quebec could be admitted to English schools. Agreement in principle reached for the \$86.5 million purchase by the Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan of the Alwinal Potash of Canada Ltd. mine, the third potash mine acquired by the province. *July 15*, Defence Minister Barney Danson said the armed forces would be increased by 4,700 persons in the next few years to 83,000, its strength prior to inflation-forced reductions. *July 16*, Death

of Marg Osburne, 49, nationally-known singer from Sussex, NB, of a heart attack following a concert. *July 18*, The House of Commons passed a bill to control the purchase and use of firearms and to expand police wiretapping powers. *July 19*, The House of Commons passed a bill increasing the qualifying period for unemployment benefits from eight weeks to a period ranging from 10 to 14 weeks depending on regional unemployment rates, and reducing the time a person can receive benefits to a period ranging from 10 to 50 weeks depending on a formula based on regional unemployment and number of weeks worked. The Department of Manpower and Immigration reported 149,429 immigrants came to Canada in 1976, a decline of 20.5% from 1975. *July 20*, A special inquiry by the CRTC found no specific separatist bias in the French-language service of the CBC but said that all media failed to cover regions of Canada adequately and to bridge the gap between English and French cultures. *July 21*, The Alberta government released a policy report under which up to 50% of the Rocky Mountain foothills would be kept in their natural state. *July 25*, The federal government announced creation of an information centre to counteract separatist propaganda. The House of Commons adjourned after passing an immigration bill, the first major changes to the Immigration Act since 1952, and a metric conversion bill, amended to allow grain producers to continue using the acre as their official unit of land measurement.

August

Aug. 2, Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd. proposal for an Alaska Highway natural gas pipeline was supported by the Lysyk inquiry, but a two-year delay was recommended to settle and implement native land claims, select a route through the southern Yukon, and allow Yukon communities to prepare for the development. The report of the Quebec Police Commission inquiry into organized crime recommended greater co-operation between police and the provincial revenue department and tougher bank regulations to control granting of credit to suspected criminals to help eradicate organized crime. *Aug. 5*, Max Yalden, deputy minister of the communications department, was named commissioner of official languages succeeding Keith Spicer. *Aug. 8*, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the government was tentatively backing the Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd. proposal for an Alaska Highway pipeline through the southern Yukon, but that procedure with the project depended on negotiations with Washington. *Aug. 10*, Parliament passed emergency legislation to halt a three-day strike by the country's 2,200 air traffic controllers over a wage dispute. *Aug. 11*, Harry Boyle resigned as chairman of the CRTC effective September 16, to be succeeded by Pierre Camu, former president of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters. Gordon Fairweather, Progressive Conservative MP for