

PREFACE

The *Canada Year Book 1985* is the latest edition in a series of books which began eighty years ago to record developments in the economic, social and political life of Canada. Before the "new" series began in 1905, other official summary publications were issued, going back to the *Year-Book and Almanac of British North America 1867*.

Like its predecessors, the *Canada Year Book* brings together a wealth of information to present a composite picture of Canada in a single volume. It is designed to serve as a convenient reference work and as a guide to other sources. It is widely used by librarians, parliamentarians, teachers, diplomats, journalists and many others.

The *Canada Year Book 1985* has been thoroughly revised, with the statistical tables streamlined to provide continuity of coverage from the 1980-81 edition. It also includes such milestones as the "patriation" of the constitution with the entrenchment of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and results of the latest federal general election as well as a summary of events reflecting trends of the Canadian economy in the early 1980s.

With content drawn from a broad spectrum of sources, it is impossible to acknowledge personally the many individuals who contributed to this edition. But it would be unthinkable not to mention our gratitude to them and, above all, to the public for responding to the surveys that are the foundation of Canada's statistical system.

Martin B. Wilk
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