

Jan. 19, The BC subsidiary of Alcan of Montréal submitted plans to the provincial government for a \$3 billion expansion of its Kitimat plant.

Jan. 31, In Quebec, the Steinberg chain received a permit to sell beer and wine in 43 of its stores, a right formerly held exclusively by small grocery stores.

February 1984

Feb. 2, Plants were closed in the BC pulp and paper sector, affecting nearly 13,000 workers; these plant closings, aimed at reaching an agreement with the unions before the contracts of eastern forestry workers expired, were an attempt to avert an industry-wide strike.

Feb. 15, The federal minister of finance brought down a budget for the 1984-85 fiscal year; he forecast a budget deficit of \$31.5 billion with a borrowing requirement of \$25.6 billion but predicted an inflation rate of 5% for 1984 and real growth of 5%.

Feb. 20, The BC government tabled a budget, with its primary objective to shrink the deficit from \$1.3 billion in 1983-84 to \$661 million, partly through a 5.8% spending cut.

Feb. 29, Premier Peckford of Newfoundland announced a public sector wage control program which would freeze the wages of about 30,000 employees for two years, saving the government about \$25 million.

March 1984

Mar. 13, The federal government announced that it would pay off the accumulated \$1.35 billion debt of Canadair; the Canada Development Investment Corp. would establish a new subsidiary that would assume the assets of the company but not its debt.

Mar. 20, The Newfoundland budget was introduced; the current account deficit was expected to drop by about 50% to \$32.2 million; to reduce operating expenses, about 550 public servants were to be laid off during the next year.

Mar. 21, The finance minister of Saskatchewan brought down a budget for 1984-85 with measures designed to

stimulate the private sector; in the public service, 2,300 managers and non-unionized executives would have their salaries frozen.

Mar. 27, The provincial administration of Alberta introduced a budget for fiscal year 1984-85, with the first reduction in spending in 43 years; the planned budget deficit would be \$566 million in the current fiscal year and about \$258 million the next year; about 1,100 public servants were to be laid off, those remaining were not to receive wage increases.

April 1984

Apr. 10, Alcan officially announced plans to build a new aluminum smelter in Laterrière, Que.; this project would not generate any additional permanent jobs, but would save about 800 positions that would have been lost because of the closure of three obsolete plants in the region.

Apr. 17, J. Baxter, finance minister of New Brunswick, brought down a budget for the coming fiscal year; over \$60 million would be slashed from various programs, to hold the increase in government spending to less than 4.5%.

Apr. 24, Manitoba's budget for the 1984-85 fiscal year was tabled, differing from those of other provinces in that general expenditures were raised by 3%, including increases of 6% for social services, 5.7% for economic development and 7% for farming programs.

May 1984

May 15, Ontario treasurer Larry Grossman brought down a budget for the 1984-85 fiscal year; the deficit was expected to be reduced to \$2.04 billion from \$2.35 billion the previous year.

May 22, Quebec's budget for the coming fiscal year was tabled in the national assembly; Quebec intended to hold its deficit at about the previous year's level, \$3.2 billion, with borrowing requirements remaining at about \$2.1 billion. Current federal import quotas on footwear were extended by 16 months to the end of March 1986.