

PREFACE

In 1867, the editors of the first *Year-Book and Almanac of British North America* opened the preface to the first edition with these words:

“In view of the approaching Confederation of the British Provinces in North America, and the prospect of their extending their commercial relations with each other and with foreign parts, a hand-book of common information respecting them seems to be required — a want which the publishers of the *Year-Book* endeavour to supply.”

More than a century later, the *1988 Canada Year Book* continues this tradition, recording the economic, social and political life of Canada.

Like its predecessors, the *1988 Canada Year Book* brings together in a single volume a wealth of information from various sources to provide a composite portrait of Canada in all its diversity and richness. Over the years, it has become the standard statistical reference source on Canada, widely consulted by librarians, parliamentarians, teachers, diplomats, journalists and others.

To mark the 120th anniversary of the *Year Book*, the 1988 edition features, at the beginning of each chapter, interesting facts and figures drawn from *Year Books* published since Confederation. This edition also includes the latest data from the 1986 Census, and an improved and expanded list of federal government departments and agencies.

The content for the *Year Book* is drawn from over 300 contributors, making it impossible to acknowledge each individually. Nevertheless, our gratitude to each remains, as does our gratitude to the Canadian public for responding to the surveys and providing the data that are the foundation of this nation's statistical system.

As were the publishers of the first edition of the *Year-Book*, we are ...

“witnesses of the extreme care taken to ensure accuracy, and believing the contents of the *Year-Book* to be of general usefulness, feel sanguine that the work will meet with public favour.”

Ivan P. Fellegi
Chief Statistician of Canada
Ottawa

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