

Chronology of Events January 1988–June 1989

Darrel R. Reid and Dwight Herperger

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2 January 1988

Free Trade

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney signs the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, promising to introduce enabling legislation for the agreement into the House of Commons as soon as possible. From his Ottawa office Mr. Mulroney calls the signing ceremony a "note of hope" and confidence for 1988. In a parallel signing ceremony U.S. President Ronald Reagan terms the deal a "win-win situation for both countries" which would create jobs and lower consumer prices.

6 January 1988

*Hydroelectricity—
Exports—Quebec*

Governor Mario Cuomo of New York and Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa sign a memorandum of understanding between Hydro-Québec and the State of New York for the sale, over 21 years, of 1,000 megawatts of hydroelectricity worth \$17 billion beginning in 1995. This is the largest hydroelectricity contract signed in Hydro Québec's 25-year history.

7 January 1988

*Regulation—
Securities*

Securities Commissions from Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia sign a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission calling for closer cooperation between the commissions in the investigation of possible securities violations. The agreement, which still requires enabling legislation to take effect, is to give regulators the authority to pursue information and witnesses in their own country on behalf of the other country, even though no violation of domes-

tic law has occurred. The agreement also obliges regulators to share information from their own jurisdiction which is required by officials from the other jurisdictions.

18 January 1988
*Regional Development—Prince
Edward Island*

Following nearly two months of intense debate, Prince Edward Island voters approve of the building of a 14-kilometre fixed link between the Island and the mainland, by a margin of nearly 60 per cent. Premier Joe Ghiz had called the plebiscite following the federal government's announcement that it was asking seven Canadian firms to submit detailed designs for a bridge or tunnel across the Northumberland Strait. Of the result, Mr. Ghiz notes that "It is a clear mandate to negotiate with the federal government while respecting the concerns of the many Islanders who voted against it."

19 January 1988
*Environment—
Nuclear Power*

The Commons Environment Committee issues a unanimous report on the nuclear power industry in Canada entitled *The Eleventh Hour*, which proposes that the federal government declare a moratorium on the construction of nuclear power plants until an acceptable solution is found to the waste disposal issue. The committee also recommends that the provinces that produce nuclear waste—Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick—should bear primary responsibility for storing it.

26 January 1988
*Senate Appointments; Meech Lake
Accord*

The first Senator to be appointed under the new Meech Lake constitutional formula is sworn in. Gerry Ottenheimer, a former Newfoundland cabinet minister, was chosen by Prime Minister Mulroney from a list provided by Newfoundland's Conservative government. Even though the Accord has yet to be ratified by most provinces, the federal government is honoring the agreement to appoint senators from lists provided by provinces with Senate vacancies.

28 January 1988
*Supreme Court—
Abortion*

Citing Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that guarantees "security of the person," the Supreme Court of Canada rules 5-2 that a British Columbia law restricting access to abortion is unconstitutional, holding the law to be so "manifestly unfair" that it could not be allowed to remain on the books. As a result, the

little-used Criminal Code law, which provided sentences of up to two years for those seeking abortions, is no longer enforceable. Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who had been charged under the law, terms the decision a "vindication of a lifetime of struggle." In Ottawa, federal Justice Minister Ray Hnatyshyn announces that the decision must be studied by the federal government and discussed with the provinces. Provincial responses to the decision differ: both Manitoba Attorney General Vic Shroeder and Ontario Attorney General Ian Scott announce that their provinces would drop all abortion-related charges against Dr. Morgentaler; British Columbia announces that, despite the ruling, public money would not be spent to finance abortion on demand.

28 January 1988
Meech Lake Accord
—Northwest
Territories

An attempt by former N.W.T. government leader Nick Sibbeston to launch a legal attack on the Meech Lake Accord is turned down by the Northwest Territories Court of Appeals, agreeing with a federal government request to dismiss the suit. In seeking a full hearing for his client's case, Sibbeston's lawyer had argued that sections of the Accord violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and that Ottawa had ignored the rights of the Yukon and Northwest Territories in concluding its agreement with the ten provinces. The three judges reject these arguments, holding, among other things, that the Charter of Rights cannot be used to challenge other parts of the Constitution, and that the federal government was not required to make the Territories part of the negotiations leading to the Meech Lake Accord.

4 February 1988
Regional Development—ERDA—
British Columbia

British Columbia Finance Minister Mel Couvelier announces the unilateral withdrawal of his province from a \$1 billion federal-provincial Economic and Regional Development Agreement (ERDA), stating his government's concern that the ERDAs offer unfair competition to existing companies and an artificial stimulus to the economy. Though more than 100 ERDA grants worth \$5.2 million had been announced in mid-January, Couvelier said the government had simply "grandfathered" those already in the system, giving them consideration under former terms and conditions. According to Cou-

velier, there are to be no further grants pending the outcome of talks with Ottawa. The suspension of provincial participation in the ERDA comes one year in advance of the agreement's 1989 expiry and is part of a review of all federal-provincial agreements by the Government of British Columbia.

10 February 1988
Budgets—Federal

Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson delivers his fourth budget in the House of Commons. In what is widely interpreted as an election budget, Mr. Wilson dwells largely upon the Conservative government's achievements since it came to office in 1984. The budget is aimed primarily at continuing the government's deficit-cutting policies, with no new spending initiatives announced.

12 February 1988
*Canadian Radio-
Television and Tele-
communications
Commission (CRTC)*

A federal cabinet decision allows Call-Net Telecommunications Ltd. to continue its long-distance service to its customers for at least six months despite a Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications (CRTC) ruling that its service violates federal policy. The Toronto-based firm sells call time to customers over long-distance lines it leases from Bell Canada and CNCP Telecommunications. Manitoba Telephones Minister Gary Doer announces that he plans to organize a multi-province protest of the decision, citing his fears that this service—if allowed to continue—amounts to competition in long-distance service, something the provinces fear will lead to large rate increases in local service for provincial telephone utilities similar to those that occurred in the United States when AT&T's monopoly was dismantled.

15 February 1988
*Regional Develop-
ment—ACOA*

Senator Lowell Murray, the minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, announces cabinet approval authorizing that agency to spend \$1 billion of development money over the next five years, despite the fact that legislation confirming the mandate of ACOA is still before Parliament.

25 February 1988*Supreme Court—
Language—
Saskatchewan*

In a 6-2 ruling, the Supreme Court of Canada holds that Saskatchewan's English-only laws are invalid and that the Saskatchewan government must either translate all laws into French within a reasonable time, or invalidate, as soon as possible, the right to French-language laws. In the ruling the court states that Section 110 of the Northwest Territories Act contains French-language guarantees which are still valid in Saskatchewan and must be either respected or repealed by the province's legislature. In response, Saskatchewan officials request more time to study the ruling. The decision also has implications for Alberta, where the same law was applied when the province was formed 1 September 1905. Francophone spokesmen hail the ruling as a victory and asked for help from the federal government and Quebec in defending French rights in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

29 February 1988*Council of
Maritime
Premiers;
Regional Develop-
ment—ACOA*

Following a meeting of the Council of Maritime Premiers, the three Maritime premiers and Newfoundland's premier Brian Peckford request a meeting with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to obtain details on how Ottawa is going to operate the new Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Premier John Buchanan notes that the premiers are not asking for a say in governing the agency but want to harmonize its operations with that of their provinces.

1 March 1988*Hydroelectricity—
Quebec*

Quebec Premier Bourassa announces that his government will go ahead with construction of a second James Bay hydroelectric development. According to Mr. Bourassa, James Bay II is to cost \$7.5 billion over ten years, and will involve the construction of three dams and a transmission line to the U.S. border. The project is to create 40,000 new jobs.

8 March 1988*Elections—
Manitoba; New
Democratic Party—
Manitoba*

The New Democratic government of Manitoba Premier Howard Pawley falls after an unexpected defeat on a motion of non-confidence following its annual budget. In addition to the combined opposition Conservatives and Liberal leader Sharon Carstairs, NDP backbencher Jim Walding voted for the motion. After announcing a provincial election, to be held 26 April, Mr. Howard

8 March 1988
*French Language
Education—
Prince Edward
Island*

Pawley, Manitoba premier since 1981, stuns observers by announcing his resignation as leader of the Manitoba New Democrats. At dissolution, the party standings are: NDP 29, Conservatives 27 and Liberals 1.

The Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island rules that the province's School Act and certain of its regulations are inconsistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, in that the Act does not recognize the right of the French language minority to participate in French language program development and its delivery in the province. Among its findings, the court rules that section 5.32(1) of the School Act, which reserves the sole discretion in the regional school board to determine if a sufficient number of students can be assembled for providing French language education, to be inconsistent with the Charter and, therefore, ultra vires.

15 March 1988
*Regulation—
Securities Industry*

Federal Minister of State for Finance Thomas Hockin announces an agreement between Ottawa and Quebec on supervision of the securities industry, a major sore point since financial deregulation last year cleared the way for mergers between federally- and provincially-regulated companies. According to Mr. Hockin, the deal protects Quebec's traditional jurisdiction over the securities industry, even when stock brokerages are taken over by federally-regulated institutions. In return, Quebec will guarantee federal regulators access to information concerning, among other things, the capital adequacy of securities operations owned by banks and federally-regulated financial institutions. A similar agreement has been struck with Ontario. Both provinces agree to notify Ottawa six months ahead of any changes in the rules governing the securities industry.

17 March 1988
*Meech Lake
Accord; Interprovin-
cial Energy Rela-
tions*

Quebec Premier Bourassa and New Brunswick Premier McKenna sign an energy agreement. The six-year, \$650 million agreement will see New Brunswick receive access to cheaper hydroelectricity in return for the province dropping its opposition to a major Hydro-Québec sale of electricity to the New England states.

During discussions the New Brunswick premier also outlines six major changes to the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord before his province can ratify it. These conditions are:

- parliament should be required in the Constitution to "promote" as well as to simply "preserve" bilingualism across the country. The Accord provides that only Québec would be committed to "preserve and promote" its identity;
- the removal of the stipulation in the Accord that jurisdiction over fisheries be discussed at constitutional conferences every year;
- the Accord must be rewritten to remove any doubt that womens' rights might be affected;
- the section on appointment of Supreme Court appointments should be amended to allow federal-provincial bar committees to make nominations to the Supreme Court;
- the issue of Senate reform must be settled before the Accord is ratified; and
- New Brunswick wants clearer language to ensure that limitations placed by the Accord on federal-provincial shared cost programs will not deprive have-not provinces of badly needed federal assistance.

21 March 1988
*International
Trade—GATT*

Federal Trade Minister Pat Carney announces in the House of Commons that Canada will accept two GATT rulings that call for the elimination of protectionist measures involving alcoholic beverages and Pacific salmon and herring, but that Ottawa will decide how to make the necessary changes. The European Community had launched its GATT case protesting that pricing practices by provincial liquor control boards favoured domestic beverages over foreign ones. Ms. Carney announces she will continue to consult with the provinces on what actions will be taken by the federal government. Canada has until the end of the year to inform GATT how it plans to comply with the rulings.

30 March 1988*Meech Lake
Accord*

Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau addresses a Senate Committee of the Whole on the Meech Lake Accord. In his presentation he urges the Senate to block the Accord by amending it, and outlines other possible ways to turn back the agreement: a Supreme Court reference and a federal election. In his address, he portrays Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as a weak leader who bought peace with the provinces at any price: "Mr. Mulroney's government of national reconciliation was able to bring temporary peace to federal-provincial relations by negotiating a sweetheart constitutional deal whereby enormous amounts of power were transferred to the provincial governments and particularly to the premiers." He portrays the Accord as a "Rubicon—once you've crossed it you can't go back."

1 April 1988*Health Policy—
Federal-Provincial
Agreements*

A new federal-provincial agreement on the interprovincial portability of health benefits comes into effect today. Under the agreement, patients from any province or territory—except Quebec, which is not party to the agreement—will be insured for all benefits offered by the province or territory in which they are treated. The agreement on portability of health care insurance gives effect to a principle enshrined in the federal government's Canada Health Act. It makes billing arrangements easier, eliminating any extra costs or the need for special insurance to cover benefits not insured in the province of residence.

4 April 1988*Language Policy—
Saskatchewan*

Saskatchewan Justice Minister Bob Andrew tables Bill 2 in the legislature, to repeal Section 110 of the Northwest Territories Act, 1877. The bill is the government's response to the Supreme Court decision of 25 February that ruled the province's English-only laws to be invalid unless either translated into French or declared to be valid in English alone. Among the bill's provisions are the following:

- Section 110 of the 1885 Northwest Territories Act—which guaranteed the right to French trials, the right to French versions of all laws and the right to speak French in the legislature—will be repealed and replaced;

- validation of past and existing statutes, even if they were passed only in English; and
- validations of future statutes and regulations, even if passed in English only.

In addition, the bill states that bills may still be passed in English only and does not set out a time limit or put onus on the government to translate old laws into French. Response to the bill by federal politicians and minority language groups alike is swift and negative. The bill is passed by the Legislature and becomes law on 25 April.

7 April 1988
*Environment—
 Provincial-Inter-
 national Relations*

The province of Ontario joins with nine U.S. states in a court action to force the United States Environmental Protection Agency to order reductions in emissions that cause acid rain. The province and the states file a petition asking the agency to release two 1981 decisions that determined acid rain was a threat to the environment. Under U.S. procedures, the decisions had to be made public before the agency could order states to reduce emissions of acid-rain producing pollutants.

13 April 1988
Tax Reform

Finance Minister Michael Wilson releases 360 pages of draft legislation on the reform of personal and corporate income taxes; this legislation is meant to give force to the first stage of the government's two-stage tax reform plan.

13 April 1988
*Language Policy—
 Saskatchewan*

In a visit with his Saskatchewan counterpart, Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa voices his support for the controversial Saskatchewan language legislation, Bill 2. Characterizing the bill as a step forward, Mr. Bourassa notes that "I understand the Saskatchewan position. When Premier Devine says this is a delicate and emotional question and we have to apply the law with prudence, I think he's talking common sense." Mr. Bourassa's support for the government of Saskatchewan is criticized by francophone groups living outside Quebec as a betrayal of their minority language rights.

18 April 1988
*Environment—
 Atlantic Ocean*

Citing its concern for the environmental safety of the region's rich fishing grounds, the federal government declares a 12-year moratorium on oil and gas exploration

for the Canadian portion of Georges Bank, off Canada's east coast. The decision is fully supported by Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan.

19 April 1988
*Provincial-Inter-
national Relations—
Ontario*

Ontario Premier David Peterson and Michigan Governor James Blanchard sign agreements aimed at ensuring the "mutual benefit" of the jurisdictions and establishing new "plateaus of friendship." The agreements include a declaration of partnership which calls for regular meetings between cabinet ministers and senior officials on matters of joint concern; and memoranda of understanding on cooperation in fighting forest fires, the regulation of maritime commerce and communication on accidental pollution discharges.

21 April 1988
*Meech Lake
Accord—Senate*

The Senate passes an amended version of the Meech Lake Accord, sending it back to the Commons for further debate followed by another vote. The Senators propose nine changes to the resolution—in essence the same changes as proposed by the Liberals during the earlier Commons debate. The key amendment would ensure that the clause in the agreement which acknowledges Quebec to be a "distinct society" is subordinate to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Other amendments would expand protection for official-language minorities, toughen provisions allowing provinces to opt out of new national programs, make it easier for the Yukon and Northwest Territories to become provinces, and provide for the election of senators. Senator Lowell Murray, Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations, calls the changes "killer amendments" aimed at destroying the Accord.

26 April 1988
*Elections—
Manitoba*

Manitoba voters elect a Progressive Conservative minority government. The Conservatives, led by Gary Filmon, win 26 seats—down from 27 in the last house. The big winners are the provincial Liberals, under Ms. Sharon Carstairs, who become the official opposition, going from one seat in the previous house to 20 in this one. The New Democrats elect 12 members, down from 29 in the previous legislature.

26 April 1988
*Provincial-Inter-
national Relations—
Environment*

The Governments of Quebec and New York State sign a five-year extension of an acid rain control treaty originally concluded in 1982. The treaty requires the sharing of acid rain research, educational material and strategies to lobby for tougher environmental laws. For the first time, the treaty specifies that Quebec and New York will lobby other states to support tougher environmental protection laws.

5 May 1988
Environment

The House of Commons unanimously adopts the government's new Canadian Environmental Protection Act, which the government describes as being the strongest environmental legislation in the western world. The bill consolidates federal environmental laws and creates a new system for regulating the development, production, use and disposal of toxic chemicals. It also creates stiff sanctions for polluters, including unlimited fines and jail terms for the worst offenders. The bill includes provisions for agreements with provinces to allow provincial laws and regulations to stand for federal regulations where such measures are equivalent.

13 May 1988
*Meech Lake Accord
—P.E.I.*

With a single dissenter, the legislature of Prince Edward Island ratifies the Meech Lake Accord, becoming the fourth province to do so.

18-21 May 1988
*Western Premiers'
Conferences*

The Western premiers hold their annual meeting at Parksville, B.C. All four premiers affirm their support for free trade, and criticize Ontario premier David Peterson for his government's opposition to the agreement. On Senate reform, they are unanimous in supporting Premier Getty's call for a "Triple-E" Senate (Effective, Equal and Elected). The premiers call for a meeting of federal and provincial agriculture ministers on how to deal with conditions in the drought-stricken West.

24 May 1988
*Supreme Court—
Appointments*

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney names John Sopinka, a practicing lawyer, to the Supreme Court of Canada, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of J.W. Estey.

24 May 1988*Free Trade;
Federal-Provincial
Relations*

International Trade Minister John Crosbie introduces his government's free trade legislation to the House of Commons. The bill amends 27 existing statutes to end, among other things, all cross-border tariffs over a ten year period. It will also ensure the compliance of such diverse legislation as the Bank Act, the Meat Import Act, the Income Tax Act and the Canadian Wheat Board Act with the terms of the Free Trade Agreement signed on 2 January 1988. While the legislation promises to trigger a bitter parliamentary debate, much of the attention is focused upon how Ottawa will guarantee to the United States that the provinces will comply with the agreement. Contained in the act are two clauses designed to bring about this effect. The first is Section 6, which states "For greater certainty, nothing in this act, by specific mention or omission, limits in any manner the right of Parliament to enact legislation to implement any provision of the agreement or fulfil any of the obligations of the government of Canada under the Agreement." Under second Section 9, Ottawa reserves the right to bring in further legislation after the deal is in effect to override new provincial legislation that would violate the agreement. Although the premiers of Alberta, Quebec and Nova Scotia indicate their concerns about these provisions, none of them withdraw their support for the agreement.

25 May 1988*Meech Lake Accord*

Nova Scotia becomes the fifth province to ratify the Meech Lake Accord; the motion in support of the agreement passes by an overwhelming majority.

26 May 1988*Regional Development—Western Diversification Office*

Deputy Prime Minister Donald Mazankowski announces that \$27 million will be allocated from the Western Diversification Fund to help Ontario Hydro afford Western Canadian coal. A 1987 task force report concluded that the Ontario utility could reduce acid rain emissions and create up to 26,000 permanent jobs in Western Canada by switching to western coal. The money will go towards subsidizing the transportation of the coal to Ontario.

2 June 1988
Health Policy—
Ontario

The Ontario government introduces its Independent Health Facilities Act into the Ontario legislature; the legislation could be a direct challenge to the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. The new law sets rules for the licensing and funding of clinics that provide health services covered by medicare, and appears to contravene the FTA with its assertion that "despite any international treaty or obligation to which Canada is a party or any law implementing such a treaty or obligation," preference will be given to proposals for clinics that are to be owned and operated by Canadians. In Ottawa the next day Trade Minister John Crosbie dismisses the Ontario legislation as a "propaganda ploy."

2 June 1988
Supreme Court—
Meech Lake Accord

The Supreme Court of Canada rejects an attempt by the Yukon and Northwest Territories to challenge the constitutionality of the Meech Lake Accord. Without giving reasons, Chief Justice Brian Dickson dismisses a request from these governments for permission to appeal lower court rulings that Ottawa had no obligation to consult them before signing the Accord.

6 June 1988
Regulation—
Financial Institutions

Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson announces a joint federal-provincial moratorium on the sale and leaseback of libraries and other assets by universities and hospitals. In "sale and leaseback" arrangements, a tax-exempt institution, which cannot benefit from depreciation allowances, sells its assets to a private company that can benefit from tax write-offs. The tax-exempt institution receives some of those benefits in the form of fees or preferential leasing rates. Such arrangements hurt both federal and provincial treasuries, which lose tax revenue from the private company. Ontario had imposed a unilateral moratorium on sale and leasebacks imposed in that province 7 May.

6 June 1988
Health Policy

Federal Health Minister Jake Epp announces a \$40 million joint federal-provincial program to battle the prevalence of family violence. Of this money, \$22.2 million is to go to the federal housing agency to build or acquire the units expected to provide temporary housing for 25,000 abused women a year. According to Mr. Epp, the

provinces are to be responsible for operating expenses for the program, but will be able to draw funds from the Canada Assistance Plan. The federal contribution—paid 50-50 on a matching basis—is expected to be \$3 million annually.

9 June 1988

*Supreme Court—
Hydroelectricity;
Interprovincial
Energy Relations*

In a decision Newfoundland premier Brian Peckford calls "extremely disappointing," the Supreme Court of Canada rejects Newfoundland's battle for a greater share of the hydroelectricity generated by the giant Churchill Falls hydro project. The government of Newfoundland had wanted to renegotiate a 65-year contract between the government of Joseph Smallwood and Hydro-Québec under which Quebec buys Labrador power at low prices and then resells it, as part of its surplus, to the United States at ten times the price. In an unanimous judgement, the Supreme Court judges concur with two previous rulings by senior courts in Quebec and Newfoundland upholding the sanctity of the contract. The decision is the second time in four years that the Court has ruled unanimously against attempts by Newfoundland to alter the Churchill Falls agreement. Later, at a meeting in Newport, R.I., Premiers Peckford and Bourassa announce their willingness to investigate the possibility of further joint hydroelectric developments in Labrador.

9 June 1988

*Regional Develop-
ment—Quebec*

Prime Minister Mulroney announces the conclusion of a 5-year regional development agreement between Ottawa and Quebec. Under the agreement, the two governments will spend \$970 million to help underdeveloped areas revitalize existing industries and attract new ones, to boost tourism and to improve transportation systems. The program is to be jointly managed by both governments.

13 June 1988

*Environment—
Interprovincial
Relations*

Meeting in Montreal, Premiers Bourassa of Quebec and Peterson of Ontario sign an agreement committing their respective provinces to share information with each other both on hazardous shipments passing from one territory to the other and on emerging environmental problems of interest to both provinces.

14-15 June 1988
*Eastern Canadian
Premiers and New
England Governors*

The Eastern Canadian Premiers and New England Governors meet in Newport, R.I. for their annual conference. Atop the agenda for the two-day meeting is the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, with the participants being briefed by U.S. free trade negotiator Peter Murphy and Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Alan Gottlieb. A particular point of contention for premiers McKenna, Peckford and Buchanan is the attendance of anti-free trade Ontario premier David Peterson as a guest; according to Premier Peckford "There's no place for Ontario at this conference, geographically or any other way." Also discussed are energy matters and environmental issues—particularly acid rain and the environmental threat posed by oil exploration on the American portion of George's Bank.

15 June 1988
*Language Policy—
Saskatchewan*

Federal Secretary of State Lucien Bouchard and Saskatchewan Education Minister Lorne Hepworth announce that their respective governments have reached an agreement on French-language education in Saskatchewan. Ottawa will pay up to \$56 million over as many as ten years to support francophone school boards, improve French-language education and immersion programs, rebuild the province's only French-language high school which recently burned, and create a language training centre at the University of Regina. Another \$6 million is to be provided for the translation of some of the province's laws into French, establishing a French language coordination and translation office, and increasing the use of French in the provincial legislature.

20 June 1988
*Transportation—
Newfoundland*

The federal and Newfoundland governments announce a 15 year, \$800 million federal-provincial agreement that would close the Newfoundland railway, making Newfoundland the only Canadian province without rail service. Ottawa is to provide a package of highway improvements and benefits for displaced workers. Municipalities hit by the layoffs and loss of related revenue from the railway will also receive compensation in the form of development grants.

22 June 1988*Language Policy—
Alberta*

Alberta introduces its new language legislation in response to the Supreme Court ruling of 25 February that significant French rights are guaranteed in Saskatchewan and, by implication, in Alberta. Bill 60 will permit Alberta MLAs to speak French in the legislature, and courts will operate in either English or French. It validates all existing provincial laws, even though they exist in English only. The law also invalidates Section 110 of the 1886 Northwest Territories Act which would have meant all laws had to be in both languages. Like the language legislation introduced in Saskatchewan 4 April, the Alberta bill meets with strong criticism from federal politicians and French-language groups.

22 June 1988*Meech Lake Accord*

The House of Commons endorses the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord with a 200-7 vote. The Accord, which had been passed by the House in October 1987, required a second vote to override the Senate approved amendments to the Accord. Opposition votes are cast by four Liberals, one Conservative, one New Democrat and one independent.

23 June 1988*Regional Development—Prince
Edward Island*

Representatives of the federal Government and the Government of Prince Edward Island sign a new five-year forestry development agreement worth \$24.1 million.

24 June 1988*Aboriginal Self-Government—
British Columbia*

The Sechelt Indian Band of British Columbia officially becomes a self-governing municipality. The Sechelt Indian Government District is the first of its kind in Canada.

27 June 1988*Council of
Maritime Premiers*

The Council of Maritime Premiers meet for the seventieth session of the Council of Maritime Premiers in Charlottetown. Leaving broader issues such as free trade and Meech Lake—over which there is disagreement within the Council—off the agenda, the premiers discuss the proposed fixed link to Prince Edward Island and the future energy needs of the maritime provinces.

27 June 1988*Jurisdiction,
Provincial—
Ontario*

The Government of Ontario introduces changes to two pieces of legislation—the Power Corporation Act and Wine Content Act—which appear to go against provisions of the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement. Changes to

the first would require Ontario Hydro, "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the trade agreement," to sell energy only if it is surplus to Canadian needs and to charge higher prices for exported energy. Changes to the Wine Content Act set up a timetable for the elimination of markups over 12 years, as opposed to the seven-year schedule under the agreement.

28 June 1988
*Jurisdiction,
Provincial—Water—
Ontario*

The Government of Ontario tables its Water Transfer Control Act, asserting provincial control over any future sales of water from the Great Lakes. The government argues that because water exports are not expressly excluded under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, domestic supply would be jeopardized by large-scale water diversion schemes.

29 June 1988
*Meech Lake Accord
—Ontario*

The Ontario Legislature votes 112-8 to ratify the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord. The vote—which makes Ontario the sixth province to endorse Meech Lake—was opposed by three New Democrats and five Conservatives.

29 June 1988
*Meech Lake Accord
—British Columbia*

The British Columbia Legislature becomes the seventh province to ratify the Meech Lake agreement, voting 42-5 in favour of the agreement.

5 July 1988
*Regulation—
Energy—National
Energy Board*

The National Energy Board grants Pan-Alberta Gas Ltd. a 24-year license to sell natural gas it may not yet have to Southern California, while rejecting Ontario concerns that the deal will erode valuable Canadian reserves. The decision marks the first application of the NEB's new policy to eliminate the surplus test, which for decades has required Alberta to stockpile enough gas for up to 30 years future use in Canada before exports were allowed. During the NEB hearings, however, Ontario and its regional fuel buyers were virtually alone in demanding some sort of retention of the surplus test. Quebec, the other major consuming province, had joined forces with Alberta before the NEB hearings on the sale earlier this spring.

7 July 1988
*Environment—
Nova Scotia*

The federal and Nova Scotia governments conclude the Canada-Nova Scotia Sub-agreement on Sustainable Development for Central Nova Scotia, which aims at

ensuring that any economic development in the central part of the province protects the environment. As part of the agreement, a study is launched to identify existing or potential conflicts between economic development in the area and the environment.

7 July 1988
Language Policy

The Commons passes Bill C-72, its proposed bilingualism legislation over the protests of nine Conservative dissidents. The bill, which updates the 19 year-old Official Languages Act allows more public servants to work in the official language of their choice and guarantees the right to trial in either French or English. The bill now moves on to the Senate, where it is passed on July 27.

8 July 1988
Meech Lake Accord
—Newfoundland

Newfoundland becomes the eighth province to ratify the Meech Lake Accord. Twenty-eight voted in favour of the accord, with ten Liberals dissenting.

12 July 1988
National Parks—
British Columbia

The federal and British Columbia governments sign a \$31 million agreement—of which the federal government will provide \$24 million—to establish the South Moresby national park reserve in the Queen Charlotte Islands. Issues left unresolved are compensation for resource companies working in the region and the as yet unresolved land claims of the Haida Indian band.

13 July 1988
Day Care

Health Minister Jake Epp announces in the Commons that the federal government will contribute an additional \$1 billion for day care, raising the cost of its already announced, federal-provincial day-care program to \$6.4 billion over seven years. Although the extra funds will not create any more than the 200,000 new day-care spaces promised under the program announced last December, they will be used largely to cover a shortfall in the original estimated price—\$5.4 billion—of the program.

18 July 1988
Megaprojects—
Newfoundland

The federal and Newfoundland governments, together with a Mobil Oil-led consortium sign a long-awaited agreement to begin construction next year on an \$8.5 billion development of the Hibernia oil field. According to the agreement, Ottawa is to contribute \$2.6 billion towards the project, \$1 billion grant towards pre-production costs and \$1.6 billion in loan guarantees. New-

foundland is to receive the major share of the construction contract for the massive drilling platform that will be built in Come by Chance. The project is to provide 1,000 permanent jobs over its 20 year production life, as well as about 1,400 jobs during six years of construction.

20 July 1988

*Free Trade—
Liberal Party*

Opposition Leader John Turner announces that he has instructed the Liberal-dominated Senate not to pass legislation to implement the free trade agreement until Prime Minister Brian Mulroney calls a federal election on the issue. "This issue is so fundamental that the people of Canada deserve and must have the right to judge," Mr. Turner says at a news conference. "I think the issue becomes democracy. Let the people decide." Senate leader Alan MacEachen announces that the Liberal majority in the Senate will accede to Mr. Turner's wishes. During Question Period in the Commons Prime Minister Mulroney attacks Mr. Turner's announcement. "In an act of desperation, the leader of the Opposition no longer wants the House of Commons to consider this important matter. He wants to resign his leadership in favour of the Senate, and I say that's not good enough for the people of Canada."

30 July 1988

*Elections—
Nova Scotia*

Announcing that this election "is about leadership—strong leadership for new ideas," Nova Scotia Conservative Premier John Buchanan calls a provincial election for his province, to be held 6 September. At dissolution, the Conservatives hold 40 seats, the Liberals six and the NDP three.

4 August 1988

Energy Policy

The federal government releases *Energy Options*, a report suggesting possible federal energy policies for the future. Among its significant departures from previous policy would be equal weight given to environmental considerations and to have a non-discriminatory fiscal and expenditure policy.

9 August 1988

Free Trade

The United States House of Representatives gives overwhelming approval to legislation covering the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, voting 366-40 to implement the trade pact. The agreement still requires the approval

18 August 1988
Regional Development—ACOA

of the U.S. Senate and the Canadian Parliament before it can be implemented.

Parliament passes Bill C-103—the legislation establishing the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency—after third and final reading in the Senate.

19 August 1988
Annual Premiers' Conference

Canada's ten premiers meet in Saskatoon for their annual premiers' conference. On the agenda for the meeting is monetary policy, Senate reform and the Meech Lake Accord. Regarding monetary policy, the ten premiers agree unanimously to demand an immediate reduction in interest rates by the Bank of Canada. Saskatchewan Premier Grant Devine is delegated to go to Ottawa to meet Bank of Canada Governor John Crow to make the demand on behalf of the ten premiers. Although Alberta Premier Don Getty pushed for a First Ministers' Conference on Senate reform to be staged before the end of the year, the premiers agree that an Alberta task force, headed by Alberta Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Jim Horsman, will tour the country in the fall to conduct bilateral discussions aimed at developing a plan for Senate reform with Ottawa and the other provinces. Premiers Peterson of Ontario and Bourassa of Quebec make it clear, however, that reform of the Senate cannot be negotiated until the Meech Lake Accord has been ratified by all ten provinces.

25 August 1988
Hydroelectricity—Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island signs a six-year agreement with New Brunswick and Quebec to buy as much as \$175 million worth of electricity. Whereas P.E.I. buys 90 per cent of its power from New Brunswick, the deal allows the province to buy power from Quebec to offset interruptions in the New Brunswick supply. Under the agreement, P.E.I. will be allowed to determine how much power it wants to buy from New Brunswick and how much it wants from Quebec to cushion the impact of sharp increases in the price of oil. New Brunswick will then buy the electricity from Quebec and send it on to P.E.I.

25 August 1988

*Free Trade—Water
Exports*

Reacting to concerns that the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement does not protect the country from large-scale diversions of water to the U.S., Environment Minister Tom McMillan introduces a bill in the Commons that would ban outright large-scale projects to divert water across the border and provide million-dollar fines and jail sentences for anyone breaking the law.

31 August 1988

Free Trade

After months of heated exchanges, the government's free trade legislation is passed by the House of Commons by a vote of 177-64. The bill now passes on to the Senate, where the Liberal majority in the upper chamber has said it will delay the legislation until a federal election is held on the issue as demanded by Opposition Leader John Turner.

2 September 1988

*Megaprojects—
Saskatchewan*

The federal government and the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan announce the construction of a \$1.3 billion Husky oil upgrader plant in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. The three governments will put up almost 75 per cent of the cash for the project, with Husky Oil Ltd. providing the rest. The federal government will pay \$399 million for 31.67 per cent equity, Alberta about \$300 million for 24.17 per cent equity, and Saskatchewan \$222 million for 17.5 per cent equity. According to Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski, the deal will provide a means of strengthening Canada's energy security while conventional reserves of crude oil continue to dwindle.

5 September 1988

*Aboriginal Land
Claims—
Northwest
Territories*

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney signs an agreement-in-principle that would make the Dene and Métis the largest non-government landowners in North America. It will give the 15,000 natives in the Northwest Territories \$500 million in cash and ownership, including subsurface rights, to about 10,000 square kilometres of land. The deal splits royalties received from the land between the natives groups and the federal government. The groups also are to receive special rights and interests in a total of 180,000 square kilometres, including a voice in land, wildlife and water management decisions. Left out of the

6 September 1988
Hydroelectricity—
Exports—Regulation

agreement are such contentious issues as aboriginal title and self-government, which are to be negotiated later.

Federal Energy Minister Marcel Masse announces a new policy easing the restrictions on large, long-term exports of Canadian electricity. Under the policy, the National Energy Board will be able to approve electricity exports without a public hearing. Consuming provinces will have to convince the board and federal cabinet that a hearing is necessary to protect the national interest, and will have to demonstrate that they want to purchase the electricity, in order to block exports. For their part, the exporters must show that the power was made available to Canadians first at a price no higher than the export price. "My objective," according to Mr. Masse, "is to streamline the regulation of electricity exports so as to make it easier for exports. At the same time, the powers of the National Energy Board will be retained to guarantee the protection of the Canadian public interest."

6 September 1988
Elections—
Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan leads his Conservative Party to victory in the Nova Scotia election, although with a much-reduced majority. The Conservatives win 28 seats, losing 14 from their pre-election total; the Liberals win 21 seats, up from six; and the New Democrats win two, down from the three they held before the election. One Independent is re-elected.

7 September 1988
Federal-Territorial
Relations—Energy

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Northwest Territories Government leader Dennis Patterson sign a tentative northern accord on energy, hailing it as a huge step towards achieving the territory's ambition of provincehood. The agreement-in-principle gives the territory "province-like" legislative and management responsibilities for on-shore oil and gas revenues and a share of all royalties. The management of off-shore royalties is to be negotiated later. Although the deal does not include ownership of the resources, revenues from them are to be shared between the two governments. According to Mr. Patterson, with the energy pact now entering the final negotiation phase only certain federal powers relat-

ing to inland fisheries, labour relations and the attorney general's department prevent the territory from having the same powers as provinces.

15 September 1988
Free Trade

In a 19-0 vote marked by the absence of Liberal Senators, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement is given approval-in-principle by the Senate, and moves on to the Foreign Affairs Committee, where it is expected to languish until a federal election is called.

19 September 1988
Procurement—Inter-provincial Relations

Meeting in Saint John, N.B., federal and provincial trade ministers from the ten provinces conclude a deal on procurement that participants hail as a first step towards the dismantling of interprovincial trade barriers. The agreement—concluded after ten months of negotiation—would disallow provincial tendering policies that give preference to goods from companies based within the province. Services and public works contracts are not affected by the agreement. Pending final approval from premiers, provinces will adopt non-discriminatory national tendering for contracts to supply goods worth more than \$25,000 by 1 April 1992. The deal also applies to federal government contracts, although Ottawa may continue to use procurement selectively to promote regional development.

19 September 1988
Environment—Federal-Provincial Relations

Invoking special interim powers provided for in the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and in the wake of a toxic chemical fire in Saint-Basile-le-Grand, Quebec, Environment Minister Tom McMillan announces that all depots for PCBs must meet federal or equivalent provincial standards for fire and security measures within 30 days, or the operators will face stiff fines. The special interim order changes existing federal suggestions for safe storage of PCBs into binding requirements. Provinces that fail to show they have standards or permit systems comparable to the federal system will be subject to federal inspection of sites.

22 September 1988
Federal-Territorial Relations—Energy

The federal and Yukon governments sign an agreement-in-principle that gives the territory a role in oil and gas development. According to Yukon Government Leader Tony Penikett, the agreement finally recognizes the

territorial government's stake in energy development. The two governments agree to share the regulation and management of oil and gas in the Beaufort Sea, subject to negotiations with the Northwest Territories. The agreement mirrors Ottawa's deal with the Northwest Territories signed on 6 September.

22 September 1988
*Federal-Provincial
Relations—Energy*

The federal and British Columbia governments announce the construction of a \$485 million natural gas pipeline to connect Vancouver Island with the mainland. The two governments are to fund 50 per cent of the project, with Ottawa providing a \$100 million grant and a \$50 million interest-free loan and British Columbia matching the federal contribution with a \$25 million interest-free loan, \$55 million to help consumers convert from oil to natural gas and \$70 million to cover cost overruns. The project is to begin as early as 1989.

24 September 1988
*Megaprojects—
Alberta*

The federal and Alberta governments announce that they have reached an agreement that will allow a proposed \$4 billion Alberta oil sands project to go ahead. A group of six companies known as the OSLO consortium worked out the \$2 billion package with the two governments, paving the way for a final study of the project. Under the deal, the federal and provincial governments would give the consortium \$850 million in loan guarantees. If the price of oil falls below \$19 U.S. a barrel, the consortium is to receive \$160 million—70 per cent to be paid by Alberta and 30 per cent by Ottawa. If, in turn, oil prices are higher, the two governments will share 16 per cent of operating revenues.

26 September 1988
*Senate—
Appointments*

Prime Minister Mulroney announces the appointment of four new Senators from Quebec. The four named to the upper house are: Solange Chaput-Rolland, a former member of the Pepin-Robarts Task Force and past-member of the Quebec National Assembly; constitutional expert Gerald Beaudoin; Roch Bolduc; and Jean-Marie Poitras. The appointments were made from a nominations list provided by Quebec Premier Bourassa, as stipulated by the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord,

which requires that all new senators be named from lists supplied by the provinces.

28 September 1988
Free Trade—United States

Hailing the agreement as a "landmark," and an "idea whose time has come," United States President Ronald Reagan signs into law the U.S. legislation to enact the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, ending the American process for approving the agreement.

28 September 1988
Health; Regional Development—Manitoba

Federal Health Minister Jake Epp announces the federal government's decision to locate a new virology laboratory in Winnipeg on a site near Manitoba's largest hospital. Construction is scheduled to start in 1990 at a cost of about \$93 million.

1 October 1988
Elections—Federal

Inviting "the people to judge us," Prime Minister Mulroney dissolves Parliament and calls a federal election to be held on 21 November. At dissolution the Progressive Conservatives hold 211 seats, the Liberals 40, the New Democrats 30, and one Independent. The key issue is expected to be the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, which has received approval in the U.S. and passed through the Commons, but which has been stalled in the Liberal-dominated Senate since Liberal leader John Turner requested Liberal Senators to delay the bill until after an election on the issue. Among those bills which die on the order paper are the free trade legislation, the government's day-care legislation, the new Broadcasting Act, amendments to the Criminal code defining pornography, conflict of interest legislation and a bill banning large-scale exports of water to the U.S.

17 October 1988
Interprovincial Relations—Energy

In an agreement that may bring an end to the acrimonious battle between the Alberta gas producers and Ontario consumers, Alberta's largest natural gas marketer, Western Gas Marketing Ltd., signs a package of 15-year supply contracts with six central Canadian distributors. The new contracts with gas distributors in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec are said to be worth roughly \$20 billion over the next 20 years, and may avoid the need for "spot-market" shopping by consumer firms. The deals give "essential service" customers—those who can least tolerate a disruption of service—15 years of firm

gas supply, with prices to be renegotiated annually after 1990.

24, 25 October 1988

Elections—Federal

The leaders of the Conservative, Liberal and New Democratic Parties contest two three-hour debates, the first in French and the second in English, broadcast nation-wide. The debates were marked by several angry exchanges between Prime Minister Mulroney and Liberal leader John Turner over the issue of free trade.

27 October 1988

Regulation—Financial Institutions

Consumer and corporate affairs ministers from the four western provinces sign an agreement in Winnipeg to share information on the economic health of financial institutions to protect consumers and strengthen the industry. The information is to alert provincial governments to potential problems within banks, trust companies and other credit firms so as to avoid problems such as the June 1987 collapse of Principal Group Ltd.

2 November 1988

Sports

At their annual meeting in Winnipeg, provincial sports ministers from across the country agree to work together to fight the use of drugs in amateur athletics. According to Manitoba Sports Minister Jim Ernst, the ministers "unanimously agreed that our priority must be the development ... of educational programs relating to the use of prohibited substances in sport."

8 November 1988

Interprovincial Relations—Law Enforcement

The governments of Quebec and Ontario sign an accord in Montreal to share traffic offence information, ensuring that tickets issued to motorists visiting from either province would not be left behind at the border.

8 November 1988

Elections—Federal

New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent rejects a statement made 4 November by a group of Quebec NDP candidates who asserted that only Quebec should have the power to override the Charter of Rights—and only to protect the French language and culture. The position of the Quebec candidates, he asserted "is not the position of the party as a whole." Rather, the notwithstanding clause, inasmuch as it exists in law, should continue to be available to all governments.

8 November 1988

Monetary Policy

Saskatchewan Premier Grant Devine meets in Ottawa with Finance Minister Michael Wilson and Bank of

Canada governor John Crow in an attempt to convince them to lower the bank's interest rates. Mr. Devine had been delegated by the provincial premiers to carry their concerns about the high interest rate policy to this year's Annual Premiers' Conference. Emerging from the meeting, the Saskatchewan premier tells reporters that he is now more confident that Mr. Crow was looking at a wide range of policy options rather than just resorting to interest rates as the only tool to manage the economy.

8 November 1988
*Aboriginal Land
Claims—Yukon*

An agreement-in-principle is concluded between the federal government and the Yukon Council of Indians that is to give the Council's 6,500 members \$230 million and about nine per cent of Yukon Territory. The deal involves the transfer of about 41,000 square kilometres of land to the territory's 13 Indian bands. In negotiations, the main issue in dispute had been the size of the federal financial compensation package. The Yukon Indians sought \$234 million while Ottawa was offering \$214 million. The two sides reached agreement of \$230 million after the Indians agreed to make some tax concessions. Most of the cash will be used to finance native development corporations.

10 November 1988
*Jurisdiction,
Provincial—Water—
Ontario*

The Ontario government introduces legislation into its legislature banning the transfer of large amounts of water from the province to the United States or any other country. The amendment to the Water Transfer Control Act states that, despite the proposed free trade deal with the United States or any Canadian legislation implementing that agreement, the Ontario government "shall refuse to give approval to a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin to a place outside Canada."

21 November 1988
Elections—Federal

The Progressive Conservative Party under Brian Mulroney wins its second consecutive majority government—the first federal government in 35 years and the only Conservative government this century to do so. The Conservatives win 170 seats in the new Parliament, down from 211 in the previous one; the Liberals win 83, up from 40 in 1984; and the New Democrats win 43, up

from 30 previously. Throughout, the election campaign was dominated by the free trade debate, and featured bitter accusations and counter-accusations from those on both sides of the issue. Six cabinet ministers went down to defeat, including Communications Minister Flora MacDonald, Solicitor General James Kelleher, Justice Minister Ray Hnatyshyn, Environment Minister Tom McMillan, Public Works Minister Stewart McInnis and junior transport minister Gerry St. Germain. Given that the election was fought around the free trade issue, the Conservative victory ensures the passage of that agreement.

26 November 1988
Parti Québécois

In a convention in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, the Parti Québécois adopts a policy to start negotiations to make Quebec independent if the PQ ever forms a government in Quebec. According to party leader Jacques Parizeau, in the next provincial election "a vote for the PQ is a vote for the sovereigntist party."

28 November 1988
*Council of
Maritime Premiers*

The Council of Maritime Premiers meets in Saint John to discuss their concerns over the free trade agreement, and agree to form a united front to press the federal government to help industries that could be weakened by free trade with the United States. According to Premier Frank McKenna, "We have pledged to work together in providing a common voice to Ottawa urging adjustment programs where necessary." All three premiers identified the food processing industry as being in particular need of assistance, with Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan adding textiles to the list and P.E.I. Premier Joe Ghiz calling for support for family farms and manufacturers of farm implements. They agree, as well, that training, marketing information, access to new technology and exporting skills are all required to help businesses in their region compete. The premiers plan to appoint deputy ministers to a committee which will formulate the region's approach to Ottawa.

6 December 1988
*Education, French
Language—Alberta*

The Conservative government of Alberta Premier Don Getty announces a new policy that recognizes French language rights in education. While the policy empha-

sizes proficiency in English as a major key to success in Alberta, it also commits school boards to guarantee and finance French language education as provided "where numbers warrant" in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the new Alberta School Act.

7 December 1988
Fisheries

Federal Fisheries Minister Tom Siddon rejects a request by a Quebec-New Brunswick consortium known as Nova Nord to gain a share of northern cod stocks. Asserting that there had been a rise in cod stocks, Nova Nord had asked Ottawa for 548,000 tonnes of fish over ten years. Mr. Siddon states that he will continue to be guided by the principles of adjacency and historic sharing, after which—if there is a demonstrated increase in the stock—his main objective is to rebuild the inshore fishery on Newfoundland's northeast coast.

9 December 1988
Regulation—Financial Institutions

Provincial ministers responsible for financial institutions agree to work toward harmonizing their laws and regulations governing trust and other financial companies under provincial authority. The protocol affirms that each province has jurisdiction over all financial institutions operating within its borders and has primary responsibility for the companies incorporated under its laws. It calls for the home province of a financial institution to provide information on request to other provinces where it operates and states that provinces will keep one another posted on investigations to avoid duplication of efforts. In addition, the ministers agree to form a committee, chaired by British Columbia Finance Minister Mel Couvelier, to begin exploring areas where they might harmonize laws and regulations governing their financial companies.

15 December 1988
Supreme Court—Language—Quebec

In an unanimous judgement, the Supreme Court of Canada strikes down the French-only sign provisions of Quebec's language law, Bill 101, as an unreasonable violation of freedom of expression, as prohibited by the Quebec Charter of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Although the five judges recognize the survival of the French language as a "pressing and substantial concern" and strongly endorse Quebec's

right to require the use of French, they hold that Quebec has not proven the need to ban the use of English or other languages. In its ruling, the court indicates that it would accept a law requiring the "markedly predominant" display of the French language as a valid way of promoting the French identity of Quebec. But the court recognizes non-francophones' right to freely express themselves in the language of their choice. "Language is so intimately related to the form and content of expression that there cannot be true expression by means of language if one is prohibited from using the language of one's choice." The ruling carefully examines Quebec's use of the federal "notwithstanding clause" to grant blanket exemption to its statutes in 1982, calling it a valid exercise of the province's power.

18 December 1988
Language Policy—
Quebec

Quebec Premier Bourassa announces that his government will invoke the "notwithstanding" clauses of the Canadian and Quebec Charters of Rights to ensure that French alone will be used on commercial signs outside stores in the province. According to Mr. Bourassa, this is a compromise meant to preserve the French face of Quebec while guaranteeing individual rights to freedom of expression. Noting that his government was following the Supreme Court's suggestion in invoking the notwithstanding clause, he acknowledges that he knows this decision is asking anglophones "to make an enormous concession." Premier Bourassa suggests, as well, that invoking the notwithstanding clause was necessary because the Meech Lake Accord, which gives Quebec extra powers to protect its French language and culture, has not yet been ratified.

19 December 1988
Meech Lake Accord
—Manitoba

Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon, citing his grave concerns over Quebec Premier Bourassa's response to the Supreme Court language ruling, withdraws his government's Meech Lake Accord resolution from its legislative agenda. Only Manitoba and New Brunswick have yet to ratify the Accord. Response to Mr. Filmon's action is swift. Quebec Justice Minister Gil Remillard noted that ten provinces are needed to complete the Accord and that "those responsible for the failure of Meech Lake

must bear the consequences." Mr. Bourassa's response is that "the first loser if Meech Lake is not ratified will be the country, not Quebec."

20 December 1988
Language Policy—
Quebec

Three of Premier Bourassa's four anglophone ministers quit his cabinet saying they cannot support the government's language policies. Environment Minister Clifford Lincoln, Public Security Minister Herbert Marx and Communications Minister Richard French, who represented mainly English ridings, state that they intend to remain in the Liberal caucus and sit as backbenchers in the National Assembly. A fourth anglophone cabinet minister, Energy Minister John Ciaccia, remains in the cabinet, stating that "someone must make the first move to end the language wars. By staying I can do more than by leaving."

23 December 1988
Language Policy

The Department of the Secretary of State announces that the federal government is to contribute \$1.2 billion over the next five years to minority and second-language education across the country. According to a press release, the money is to be used to help develop educational programs for minority languages and for English and French second languages. Priority is to be placed upon improving access to minority-language education, expansion of French in post-secondary schools, expansion of programs for teachers and more opportunities for second-language learning.

30 December 1988
Free Trade

With the Liberal majority abstaining from the vote, the government's free trade legislation passes the Senate and is given royal assent by Supreme Court Justice Antonio Lamer on behalf of Governor General Jeanne Sauvé. The legislation amends 27 Canadian laws to conform with the obligations of the trade agreement. On 31 December Canadian and U.S. representatives exchange diplomatic notes stating that each country is ready to put the treaty into effect. The treaty is to come into effect 1 January.

4 January 1989
Provincial-Inter-
national Relations

British Columbia Premier Bill Vander Zalm and Washington State Governor Booth Gardner sign two cooperation agreements pledging their respective juris-

10 January 1989
Senate—Reform

dictions to knocking down trade barriers and launching joint tourism and business promotions.

Senator Lowell Murray, the minister for federal-provincial relations, begins talks on the next stage of Senate reform with the provinces. Senate reform is scheduled as the first item of a constitutional conference of first ministers to be held after the Meech Lake Accord is ratified by all ten provinces.

16 January 1989
Provincial-International Relations

The Alberta government agrees for the first time to participate in a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Neil Webber, provincial Energy Minister, says that Alberta has not agreed to cooperate with production quotas set by OPEC to prop up world oil prices at the London meetings on 25 and 26 January, but will lend "moral support" to the organization's most recent agreement to limit oil production. The federal government was not invited to attend.

17 January 1989
Elections—Yukon

Yukon Government Leader Tony Penikett calls a general election for 20 February. Penikett, leader of the country's only New Democratic Party government, says that the election will be fought on his government's record of creating 3000 new jobs since it was elected in May 1985. At dissolution, the party standings are: NDP—seven; Conservatives—six; Liberals—one; and, one seat is vacant.

21 January 1989
*Progressive
Conservative Party
—Newfoundland*

Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford announces that he will step down from office at the end of January. The fiery orator took office in June 1979 and fought almost continuous battles with the federal government, particularly Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, over offshore oil and fisheries jurisdictions. At a press conference Peckford says he no longer has the "ruthlessness" to perform the job required as premier and that he is worn down by his partial failure to achieve his dream of making Newfoundland an equal partner in Confederation.

23 January 1989
*Supreme Court—
Appointments*

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney names two appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada. Mr. Justice Charles Joseph Gonthier, a judge of the Quebec Court of Appeal, and Mr. Justice Peter de Carteret Cory of the

Ontario Court of Appeal were named to replace Jean Beetz and Gerald Le Dain, both of whom resigned in November 1988 because of illness. The appointments, effective 1 February, bring the court back to full complement and were welcomed by Chief Justice Brian Dickson, who earlier had delayed four constitutional cases until a full court could hear them. This brings to five the number of appointments that Brian Mulroney has made to the Supreme Court since becoming Prime Minister in 1984.

26 January 1989
*Federal-Provincial
Agreements*

The Federal Court makes public a ruling that has ordered Ottawa to freeze \$168 million in transfer payments to the province of Manitoba because that provincial government has been deducting 5 per cent of monthly welfare cheques to make up for past overpayment. Mr. Justice Max Teitelbaum says the practice is a violation of a federal-provincial agreement, and until violations stop, Ottawa must halt its transfer payments to Manitoba. The payments amount to \$14 million each month (see entry for 23 February 1989)

7 February 1989
Senate—Reform

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney rejects one-name Senate lists. Speaking to reporters Mulroney says that provinces have the right to nominate whomever they want as potential senators, but a list from any one province with only one name on it will not be accepted. This appears to call to a halt suggestions by Alberta Premier Don Getty that his province will provide only one nominee to the Senate following an election. As part of the Meech Lake Accord it was agreed that provinces with a vacancy in the Senate could submit a list of names to the federal cabinet with Ottawa choosing from the list.

20 February 1989
Elections—Alberta

Alberta Premier Don Getty calls a general provincial election for 20 March. The election call comes two years and 45 weeks after the previous election produced a majority Conservative government. "The people I'll be dealing with—on Senate reform, a Senate election, low interest rates and a fight against the national sales tax—they understand strength" says Getty in justifying the election call.

20 February 1989
Elections—Yukon

Yukon Government leader Tony Penikett and his New Democratic Party are returned to power in a general territorial election, keeping in power the only NDP government in Canada. Of the 17 seats, the NDP took nine and the Conservatives, seven.

23 February 1989
Environment

Environment ministers from three western provinces agree to improve recycling programs. Paper recycling will be studied in Saskatchewan; oil recycling, in British Columbia; pesticide container recycling in Manitoba; and Alberta is expected to study the recycling of used tires. The ministers also promise to support a ten-year federal program to ban chemicals that harm the ozone layer.

23 February 1989
*Federal-Provincial
Agreements*

The federal government appeals a Federal Court ruling that says that Manitoba must change its welfare system or lose millions of dollars a month in federal payments under the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP). Most other provinces have similar agreements and would be affected by the Manitoba ruling. The federal government is also talking with the provinces on a political solution to what has become a national problem (see entry for 26 January 1989).

27 February 1989
*Meech Lake Accord
—First Ministers'
Meeting*

At a meeting of the Prime Minister and nine of ten provincial premiers (Premier Bill Vander Zalm of British Columbia was ill), no consensus is reached on the constitutional impasse over the Meech Lake Accord. "There are realities ongoing in the province of Quebec and elsewhere that would be ignored only at very considerable risk and peril," Mulroney warned the two premiers, McKenna and Filmon, whose provincial legislatures have yet to ratify the Accord. All the premiers admit that they had made no progress in appeals to Ottawa to do something about rising interest rates.

28 February 1989
*International
Trade, GATT*

The Canadian Government and the European Community (EC) sign an agreement to open Canadian markets to beer, wine and spirits. Signed in Brussels, the agreement commits Canada to phase out provincial liquor board regulations that discriminate against EC alcoholic beverages—the liquor board regulations had earlier been

ruled an unfair trading practice by the parties of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). As well, the provinces must stop putting higher prices on EC wines than on Canadian wines within seven years—the same deal Canada gave the United States under the free trade agreement. Ontario continues to oppose the deal, wanting to extend protection for its wine and grape industry for 12 years.

1 March 1989

*Industrial
Development*

Regional Industrial Expansion Minister Harvie André announces that the new national space agency will be located in Montreal. The agency will coordinate the work of several federal departments and private industry working in the space program. The decision ends three years of lobbying efforts for Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa and Ontario Premier David Peterson who wanted the agency located in Montreal and Ottawa, respectively.

3 March 1989

*Meech Lake Accord
—Manitoba*

Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon announces plans for an all-party committee to hold public hearings across the province on the Meech Lake Accord. Liberals and New Democrats are seeking amendments to the Accord, while Filmon says he might be satisfied with a set of written assurances. The committee will include three MLAs from the governing Conservatives, two Liberals, one New Democrat and a neutral chairman, political scientist Waldron Fox-Decent of the University of Manitoba. Filmon says that his minority Conservative government will not submit an official position on Meech Lake to the committee for the public to comment on. The hearings begin 6 April.

4 March 1989

*New Democratic
Party—Canada*

Federal New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent resigns after 14 years and four election campaigns as leader. As leader since 1974, he managed to improve his party's position in the House of Commons in every election but one, although the NDP share of the popular vote varied little. His successor, to be chosen at a convention in Winnipeg on 30 November to 3 December, will be the fourth leader in NDP history since the party was established in 1961.

13 March 1989
*Byelection—
Federal; Reform
Party*

The Reform Party of Canada wins its first seat in the House of Commons in a byelection in the Alberta riding of Beaver River. Deborah Grey replaces Conservative John Dahmer who died shortly after the November 1988 election. The Reform Party was founded by Preston Manning in 1988 on a platform of western disenchantment with the perceived centrist attitudes of the three traditional federal parties. The Reform Party is on record as opposing the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord and demanding Senate reform.

16 March 1989
*Regional Develop-
ment—ERDA*

Federal Public Works Minister Elmer MacKay confirms that the federal government has frozen talks with the provinces on regional development agreements. Confirmation of the freeze comes amid widespread talk about severe federal spending cuts anticipated in the upcoming federal budget next month. Sources in several provinces say they are deeply concerned that the federal government will slash its share of economic and regional development agreements (ERDAs), whose total value is roughly \$6 billion. Currently, the federal government pays as much as two-thirds of the costs of ERDAs for poorer provinces, while richer provinces split the costs evenly with the federal government. On 31 March 1989 more than 40 such agreements worth about \$1.5 billion will expire in eight provinces.

16 March 1989
*Federal-Territorial
Relations*

Pierre Cadieux, Federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announces that the federal government has ratified a November 1988 agreement-in-principle with 13 Indian bands to turn over more than 41,000 square kilometres of Yukon territory and \$232 million in cash. The deal, which includes everything from mineral rights to royalties, has been negotiated over 15 years by Ottawa, the territorial government, and the Indian bands and allows for guaranteed representation on boards involving wildlife management and land-use planning.

20 March 1989
Elections—Alberta

The Alberta Progressive Conservative Party is swept back to power in its sixth straight majority government, but Premier Don Getty loses his own seat to a Liberal.

The Conservatives win 59 seats, the NDP are unchanged at 16 and the Liberals capture eight. The election of 24 NDP and Liberal members marks the first time since 1930 that Albertans have provided a significant opposition to the government in two consecutive elections. Alberta Premier Don Getty later wins a byelection 9 May in the rural riding of Stettler, enabling him to sit in the legislature almost two months later.

21 March 1989

Free Trade

The Ontario government announces that it will comply with GATT and FTA obligations requiring the province to phase out differences in retail prices between U.S. and EC wines and domestic products over a seven year period. For several months prior to the decision, Premier Peterson's Liberal government threatened confrontation or court action with the federal government over the threat to the province's grape and wine industries. Ontario backed down after Ottawa agreed to contribute an extra \$5 million towards the marketing of Canadian wines as part of a \$100 million federal-provincial, 12 year compensation package to help grape growers adjust to changing conditions.

21 March 1989

*Regional
Development—
New Brunswick*

New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna tells the federal government that his province is willing to pay Ottawa's share of new federal-provincial regional development agreements on an interim basis if the federal government will sign the deals now. "We are interested in making as generous a gesture as we can to demonstrate how important it is to us to get these sub-agreements," says McKenna. The provincial proposal sees New Brunswick "front-ending" Ottawa's share of the agreements' costs until the federal government's financial problems have passed; then, Ottawa would compensate New Brunswick at a later date.

29 March 1989

Free Trade

The Advisory Council on Adjustment, chaired by industrialist Jean de Grandpré, releases its report. Appointed by the Prime Minister in December, 1988 to advise the government on labour adjustments under free trade, the Council rejects specific programs aimed only at workers or businesses hurt by the FTA, saying the

concern is for *all* the unemployed. The report says that businesses which will not train or retrain their workers should pay a special free trade tax that could add up to \$3 billion a year. Also, the Council recommends changes in unemployment insurance to encourage job retraining rather than treat UIC as an economic safety net.

31 March 1989
*Supreme Court—
Appointments*

Beverley McLachlin of the British Columbia Supreme Court is appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada by Prime Minister Mulroney. The appointment of the bilingual McLachlin, who succeeds retiring Justice William McIntyre of British Columbia, brings to three the number of women who now sit on the highest court in the country. The fact that MacLachlin is from British Columbia is significant in that it means Mulroney chose to ignore the tradition of rotating the two western positions on the Court among the four western provinces. Saskatchewan, which has not been represented on the Court since 1973, had been lobbying intensely for the seat.

1 April 1989
Fisheries

Newfoundland's Conservative Premier Thomas Rideout denounces the Canada-France agreement on cod, signed the previous day. Under the agreement, Canada will allow the French to almost double the amount of northern cod they can take from Canadian waters during the next three years while a special five-member independent tribunal settles who owns the waters around Newfoundland and the French islands of St-Pierre and Miquelon. Rideout says Ottawa should not have given the French access to the province's fishery, now suffering from reduced catch limits recently imposed by Ottawa to replenish cod stocks. "This is as totally unacceptable to me as it is to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador," says Rideout, who has been in office only ten days and is beginning a three-week election campaign.

3 April 1989
*Council of
Maritime Premiers*

The three Maritime premiers send a letter to Prime Minister Mulroney expressing concern over the expiry of a number of Economic Regional Development Agreements (ERDAs). The agreements, worth about \$135

million annually to the three provinces, expire in four days. Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan notes the dependence of the Maritime's economies on the ERDAs, particularly the resource development subsidiary agreements.

10 April 1989
Environment

A Federal Court judge quashes the federal licence for a \$125 million dam project in southeastern Saskatchewan. In his ruling, Mr. Justice Bud Cullen finds that Federal Environment Minister Thomas McMillan "failed to comply with a statutory duty" and "exceeded his jurisdiction" when he failed to hold public hearings or appoint an independent panel to review the dam project. This opens the doors for full environmental hearings on federal projects ranging from oilsands megaprojects to nuclear submarines. The court challenge was seen as a test case because no one was certain whether the federal environmental guidelines were mandatory or voluntary.

11 April 1989
Unemployment Insurance

Federal Employment Minister Barbara McDougall announces proposed changes to the unemployment insurance system. Highlights of the proposed reforms include:

- \$1.3 billion will be cut from payments now made to unemployed workers under the \$13-billion UI program and reallocated to other programs through changes to the qualification rules and benefit periods. Qualifying periods and benefit levels have been made more stringent, but on a sliding scale to reflect regional levels of unemployment.
- An additional \$800-million will be spent on a variety of worker training schemes designed to train an additional 60,000 UI claimants a year, help laid-off older workers and provide financial assistance to those anxious to move to areas of lower unemployment.
- New rules will provide \$500-million more in benefits for maternity and parental leave and sickness benefits, and extend payments to workers over the age of 65.

The changes will be put into legislation to be introduced in Parliament in June, aiming for implementation on 1 January 1990.

18 April 1989
Free Trade; GATT

International Trade Minister John Crosbie suggests that provincial governments will be kept informed, but not asked to participate, in coming negotiations with the United States over the definition of subsidies. "We believe quite clearly that international trade is under federal jurisdiction and falls under the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada, not the prime minister and the premiers," says Mr. Crosbie after a day-long meeting with provincial trade ministers and their officials.

The meeting also reviews the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement and the status of the GATT negotiations in Geneva, and discusses greater federal-provincial cooperation in trade promotion and international marketing in Europe and the Pacific Rim nations. Crosbie suggests that provincial involvement in the GATT negotiations will be in the same manner as with the FTA: during that two-year negotiating process, federal officials met with provincial trade officials to seek their opinions in advance and then reported to them after the meetings.

19 April 1989
Environment

Federal Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard announces that federal and provincial environment ministers have established a five-year, \$250 million fund to clean up hazardous waste sites whose owners are unknown. The fund will give top priority to those sites which pose a serious threat to public health and the environment. The ministers also agree to work together to fight the breakdown of the ozone layer and to control the production, use and elimination of toxic substances. Calling Canada one of the most wasteful nations, the ministers set the year 2000 as a target date to reduce waste by 50 per cent through recycling projects.

20 April 1989
Regulation—Financial Institutions

Ten provincial ministers sign a memorandum of understanding in Vancouver providing for the sharing of information of financial institutions. The provincial effort to

harmonize regulations is designed to avert the need for a federal securities and exchange commission. "We felt it was important that the provinces themselves show some leadership in terms of being willing to work together in the interests of the Canadian consumer," says Mel Couvelier, British Columbia's Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations and spokesperson for the other provincial ministers.

20 April 1989

Elections—Newfoundland; Meech Lake

Liberal leader Clyde Wells leads his party to electoral victory in Newfoundland, ending 17 years of Conservative government. Wells suffers personal defeat in his Humber East riding, but the Liberals take 30 of the 52 seats, leaving former premier Tom Rideout's Conservatives with 22 seats. The NDP, under the leadership of Cle Newhook, loses the only two seats it had held in the legislature before the election. The main issues in the campaign revolved around leadership and the record of the governing Tories. One month later, Premier Wells wins a byelection by acclamation in the riding of Bay of Islands, enabling him to sit in the legislature.

Within hours of his electoral victory, Wells says in an interview that he cannot support the Meech Lake Accord because it confers special status on Quebec, makes reform of the Senate next to impossible and weakens the position of the federal government; however, Wells says that he will not use his objection to the constitutional agreement to wring concessions from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on issues important to Newfoundland.

26 April 1989

Budgets—Federal; Federal-Provincial Fiscal Relations

Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson reads a lengthy statement featuring highlights of the federal budget at a news conference following a leak of budget details to Global Television News earlier in the day. The budget is aimed at reducing the growth of the federal deficit, which has increased unexpectedly in recent months due to higher interest rates. Highlights of the tax and expenditure policies include:

- the closing or reduction in size of 14 military bases;

- cuts in subsidies to VIA Rail by \$500 million over four years as well as increasing fares and the closing, sale or transfer of substantial parts of the system;
- deferral of the Conservative government's election campaign pledge to launch a \$6.4 billion day-care program;
- decrease in the transfers to the provinces for health and postsecondary education by one percentage point.
- increase from 3 to 5 per cent for the surtaxes on personal and corporate income tax and an additional 3 per cent surtax on high-income individuals;
- complete withdrawal of the federal government from financing the unemployment insurance program, adding at least \$2 billion to the \$10 billion now paid in Unemployment Insurance premiums by employers and employees.

2 May 1989
Meech Lake Accord
—Manitoba

The Manitoba government's public hearings on the Meech Lake Accord draw to a close in Winnipeg after a month-long tour of the province by an all-party committee to hear the opinion of Manitobans on the proposed constitutional amendment. The seven-member committee, chaired by University of Manitoba political scientist Waldron Fox-Decent, heard submissions from over 300 people, 25 per cent of whom said they would like the Accord passed without any changes.

2 May 1989
Elections—Prince
Edward Island

Prince Edward Island Premier Joe Ghiz announces a general election for 29 May, seeking a second term in office for the governing Liberal party. At dissolution, the Liberals hold 22 seats, the Conservatives, nine and there is one vacancy.

3 May 1989
Language Policy—
Quebec

Quebec cabinet minister Claude Ryan announces proposed regulations for Quebec's controversial language law (Bill 178), passed in December 1988, which declared that all outdoor signs in Quebec must be in French only. Under the regulations, Quebec stores with fewer than 50 employees will be permitted to post bilingual signs indoors, provided the French lettering is twice as large as the lettering in other languages. Ryan, the min-

ister responsible for the province's language law, says that the public has 60 days to make its views known on the regulations before the cabinet makes a decision.

3 May 1989
*Liberal Party—
Canada*

Leader of the Opposition John Turner announces that he will be stepping down as Liberal leader as soon as a leadership convention to replace him can be held. Turner indicates that he will retain his Vancouver Quadra seat in the meantime.

5 May 1989
Environment

The Saskatchewan Government files an appeal in the Federal Court of Appeal from the 10 April court ruling that halted construction of the Rafferty Dam project (see entry for 10 April 1989). Eric Bernston, the Saskatchewan cabinet minister in charge of the project, says the province is losing \$2 million a month by not proceeding with the dam, which was scheduled for completion by 1990.

15 May 1989
Regional Development—ACOA

Federal cabinet minister Elmer MacKay tells the House of Commons committee on regional development that funding for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) will be cut by as much as 28 per cent each year under deficit-reducing measures introduced in the federal budget last month. Mackay, the minister responsible for ACOA, says that the agency's original budget of \$1.05 billion over five years will instead be spread over six to seven years, for an average annual payment of \$150 million, down from \$210 million under the old system.

18 May 1989
*Throne Speech—
Manitoba*

Manitoba Government opens a new session of its legislature with a throne speech pledging, among other things, to fight for better relations with Ottawa. This pledge includes the opening of a previously announced office in Ottawa to improve communications with federal officials.

23 May 1989
*Federal-Provincial
Fiscal Relations*

Auditor General Ken Dye, in testimony before the House of Commons public accounts committee, proposes that future spending agreements between Ottawa, the provinces and municipalities should contain provisions to ensure that taxpayers' funds are spent wisely. Dye says that existing agreements are not clear regarding who

audits federal transfer payments, which in 1989-90 involve a total of \$23.9 billion, most of which is received by provincial governments.

25 May 1989
Throne Speech—
Newfoundland;
Meech Lake Accord

A speech from the throne opens the first legislative session of the new government of Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells pledging to make the province a full, participating member of Canada. Apart from emphasis on the troubled fishery and economic development, the speech stresses health and education, two areas Wells has targeted as major priorities for his month-old government.

The speech also contains a pledge to push for changes to the Meech Lake Accord and to ask the House of Assembly to rescind a resolution ratifying the agreement if such changes are not considered.

29 May 1989
Elections—Prince
Edward Island

Prince Edward Island's Liberal Party is returned to office in a landslide victory, capturing 30 of 32 seats in the province's general election. The majority is the largest in the province since 1935 when the Liberals took all the seats.

1 June 1989
Hydroelectricity;
Environment

Federal Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard tells a House of Commons environment committee that Ottawa has begun talks with the Quebec government and Hydro-Québec on how to ensure federal input into the evaluation of the James Bay II hydroelectric development. The talks are partly in response to a recent Hydro-Québec study which found that fish samples taken from reservoirs in the area contain mercury levels up to nine times higher than the maximum limit recommended by the federal government.

1 June 1989
Environment

Federal Transport Minister Benoit Bouchard and Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard indicate that the legal provisions for the transportation of hazardous goods have been made stronger. The new provisions were developed in cooperation with provincial officials and cover three areas: extension of existing rules governing the transportation of hazardous goods to cover materials destined for recycling; establishment of a uniform

manifest document for shippers; and requirement of 30 day's notice for shipping PCBs between provinces.

3 June 1989
Meech Lake Accord

This marks the second anniversary of the approval in Ottawa by the Prime Minister and all the premiers on 3 June 1987 of the text of the *Constitution Amendment, 1987*. At this point two years later the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord has been ratified by eight provincial legislatures and the House of Commons. The Manitoba and New Brunswick legislatures have yet to ratify the agreement and the newly-elected premier of Newfoundland, Clyde Wells, is threatening to revoke his legislature's support for the Accord unless major changes are introduced. It is generally assumed that under the procedure for constitutional amendment adopted in 1982, the Constitution Amendment 1987 must be ratified by Ottawa and all ten provinces by 23 June 1990 in order to become law.

15 June 1989
Throne Speech—
Prince Edward
Island

Prince Edward Island's Liberal government unleashes a concentrated attack on the federal government in its first throne speech since re-election two weeks ago. One major focus of the province's discontent is the planned closure by Ottawa of Canadian Forces Base Summerside, announced in the 27 April federal budget, which could cost the province about 1300 jobs. Premier Ghiz says that while budget deficits are a concern to all provinces, deficit control can "not justify the government of Canada's attack on our region and our province."

20 June 1989
Regulation—Financial Services

The Conference Board of Canada releases a report citing a "pressing need" for intergovernmental cooperation in the financial services sector. Guy Glorieux, director of the Conference Board's financial services research program, notes that "while banks are under federal jurisdiction, their securities affiliates are governed by the provinces ... [and] without all of the players' involvement, the industry cannot achieve the necessary level of efficiency required to be competitive in the 1990s."

27 June 1989
Council of Maritime Premiers

The Council of Maritime Premiers meets in Mont Carmel, Prince Edward Island for its seventy-fourth session. Communiqués are issued on such matters as interprovin-

cial trade barriers, the closure of CFB Summerside and the question of jurisdiction over telephone utilities which is before the Supreme Court of Canada. In responding to questions from the media, the premiers express a general concern that Atlantic Canada is being asked to pay a disproportionate share of federal deficit reduction; as well, they are concerned about the delays in getting new ERDA agreements signed.

Chronology: Index

- Aboriginal Peoples:** 24 June 1988; 5 September 1988; 8 November 1988
- Annual Premiers' Conference:** 19 August 1988
- Budgets (Federal):** 10 February 1988; 26 April 1989
- Council of Maritime Premiers:** 29 February 1988; 27 June 1988; 28 November 1988; 3 April 1989; 27 June 1989
- CRTC:** 12 February 1988
- Day Care:** 13 July 1988
- Eastern Canadian Premiers and New England Governors:** 14-15 June 1988
- Education, French Language:** 8 March 1988; 6 December 1988
- Elections:** 8 March 1988; 26 April 1988; 30 July 1988; 6 September 1988; 1,24,25 October 1988; 8,21 November 1988; 17 January 1989; 20 February 1989; 13,20 March 1989; 20 April 1989; 2,29 May 1989
- Energy Policy:** 5 July 1988; 4 August 1988; 7,22 September 1988
- Environment:** 19 January 1988; 7,18,26 April 1988; 5 May 1988; 13 June 1988; 7 July 1988; 19 September 1988; 23 February 1989; 10,19 April 1989; 5 May 1989; 1 June 1989
- Federal-Provincial Agreements:** 1 April 1988; 26 January 1989; 23 February 1989
- Federal-Provincial Fiscal Relations:** 26 April 1989; 23 May 1989
- Federal-Territorial Relations:** 7,22 September 1988; 16 March 1989
- First Ministers' Meeting:** 27 February 1989
- Fisheries:** 7 December 1988; 1 April 1989
- Free Trade:** 2 January 1988; 24 May 1988; 20 July 1988; 9,25,31 August 1988; 15,28 September 1988; 30 December 1988; 21,29 March 1989; 18 April 1989
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- Hydroelectricity:** 6 January 1988; 1 March 1988; 9 June 1988; 25 August 1988; 6 September 1988; 1 June 1989
- Industrial Development:** 1 March 1989
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- Jurisdiction, Provincial:** 27,28 June 1988; 10 November 1988
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- Liberal Party:** 20 July 1988; 3 May 1989

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Throne Speeches: 18,25 May 1989; 15 June 1989

Transportation: 20 June 1988

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Western Premiers' Conference: 18-21 May 1988