

# CHRONOLOGY 2009

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## Aboriginal Peoples

### **8 January**

*Aboriginal Politics  
Saskatchewan  
Sentencing circle*

Saskatchewan Court Judge Barry Morgan accepts the proposal to use an Aboriginal sentencing circle for Christopher Pauchay. Judge Morgan, however, has final say on the verdict. Christopher Pauchay had taken his two daughters out into a blizzard in January 2008 and they froze to death. The sentencing circle does not preclude a prison term, which could be as long as five years. On March 6, Pauchay was sentenced to 3 years.

### **16 January**

*Aboriginal Politics  
Stimulus Plan*

Federal and provincial leaders consider a \$3 billion stimulus plan targeted at native reserves. Assembly of First Nations national chief Phil Fontaine said the plan focuses on new housing, a major school construction program and establishing a \$1 billion fund that would lend money to local development initiatives. Mr. Fontaine said there are 42 native communities that need new schools and many others with school buildings in need of repair.

### **19 January**

*Aboriginal Politics  
Health Canada*

Health Canada is demanding the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples return up to \$260,000 in ineligible expenses after an audit found that directors of the native advocacy group appropriated thousands of dollars in federal cash without proper evidence of where the money went. Health

Canada launched an audit in late 2007 to find out what happened to \$472,900 it transferred to the congress for projects aimed at improving the health of Aboriginal Peoples. The audit findings identified concerns with CAP's internal financial controls including approximately \$260,000 of ineligible expenses in consulting fees, travel and meeting costs and per diem for CAP employees during 2005-2006.

**23 January**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding*

Greg Rickford, Member of Parliament for Kenora, on behalf of Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and non status Indians, announces allocating \$3.7 million to improve the road network in northern Ontario. The road network, which spans 3,000 kilometres, is necessary to link isolated communities.

**23 January**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding*

The Government of Canada takes steps to ensure that Aboriginal Peoples fully share economic opportunities through the Aboriginal Aerospace Employment Initiative project. Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board announces that at least 200 Aboriginal Peoples will gain skills and employment experience. The government is investing \$5.2 million in this project.

**5 February**

*Aboriginal Politics  
Federal government  
Social housing  
projects*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, issues a statement indicating that the Government has reached an important milestone. The Miawpukek First Nation of Newfoundland and Labrador become the first First Nations community approved for housing loans backed by the First Nations Market Housing Fund. He also mentions that Budget 2009 commits an additional \$400 million over the next two years to support new social housing projects, remediation of existing social housing and complementary housing activities on-reserve.

**6 February**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Employment project*

John Duncan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development announces that Aboriginal Peoples in British Columbia's Lower Mainland and along the coast will gain skills to work in the construction industry and port-related companies. The Government of Canada is contributing approximately \$10 million to the VanASEP Training Society and \$2 million to the Prince Rupert ASEP Society. VanASEP will provide industry-specific pre-employment assessment and training for Aboriginal Peoples to help them find long-term jobs. The Prince Rupert ASEP Society will help local Aboriginal Peoples prepare for job opportunities at port-related companies in Phase 1 of the port development.

**12 February**

*Aboriginal Politics*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills

*federal funding*

Development, announces the Government's commitment to supporting Aboriginal Peoples as outlined in Canada's Economic Action Plan. Minister Strahl announces that \$75 million over two years has been proposed to establish an Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund. The fund will lay the groundwork for a successor program to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS), and will focus on employer partnerships and delivering targeted training to improve employment outcomes.

**13 February**

*Aboriginal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Skills and Employment*

*Partnership Project*

Ed Komarnicki, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and to the Minister of Labour, announces an addition to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership program. The investment is \$2.05 million for the Matachewan Aboriginal Access to Jobs Training Strategy will provide training and skills development opportunities for more than 200 Aboriginal Peoples in northern Ontario.

**19 February**

*Aboriginal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Employment*

Keith Ashfield, Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency) and Member of Parliament for Fredericton, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces that the Government of Canada is contributing approximately \$2.47 million to the ASEP-NB Inc. project through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) funding provided in Budget 2007. The project will help Aboriginal Peoples take advantage of job opportunities in industries such as mining, oil and gas, forestry, and fishing.

**26 February**

*Aboriginal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Infrastructure*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announces a new Grade K to 8 school for Burnt Church as part of the Government of Canada's commitment to accelerate infrastructure projects for First Nations. This project is part of the \$200 million for new schools and major renovations included in the \$1.4 billion investment for Aboriginal Peoples under Canada's Economic Action Plan.

**2 March**

*Aboriginal Politics*

*federal funding*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development Agency for the Regions of Quebec), announces a renovation project for the Seskitin Primary School in Wemotaci. This project is part of the \$200 million for new schools and major renovations included in the \$1.4 billion investment for Aboriginal peoples under Canada's Economic Action Plan. The renovation project is needed because of the growing student numbers and the building's age.

**5 March**

*Aboriginal Politics*

*federal funding*

*new schools*

Chris Warkentin, Member of Parliament for Peace River, on behalf of Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announces funding for a new elementary school located on the isolated Fox Lake reserve of the Little Red River Cree Nation in northern Alberta.

This project is part of the \$200 million allocated to funding new schools and major renovations included in the \$1.4 billion investment for Aboriginal Peoples under Canada's Economic Action Plan.

**6 March**

*Aboriginal Politics  
British Columbia  
Proposed law*

The British Columbia government proposes a law that will recognize the legal rights and status of Aboriginal Peoples. The law proposed by the province's Liberal government will recognize that Aboriginal Peoples have long lived throughout British Columbia and would no longer have to prove that they inhabited the area prior to colonialization. It would recognize Aboriginal rights and title, offering shared decision making and revenue sharing for First Nations. Unlike other provinces, B.C. never signed treaties with Aboriginal bands and the province is now subject to hundreds of outstanding native land claims that has led to conflict and lawsuits over land use.

**17 March**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding*

Larry Miller, Member of Parliament for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, on behalf of Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announces the construction of a new elementary school, in partnership with the First Nation, to replace its current facility. This project is part of the \$200 million for new schools and major renovations included in the \$1.4 billion investment for Aboriginal peoples under Canada's Economic Action Plan.

**19 March**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Cree language*

On behalf of James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Blaine Calkins, Member of Parliament for Wetaskiwin, announces \$116,000 in funding that will enable the Miyo Wahkohtowin Community Education Authority to continue to develop its Web-based interactive Cree language portal. This online portal that includes a dictionary and curriculum-based resources, is accessible to all First Nations communities and will help further the development of the Cree language in Canada.

**23 March**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announces support for the construction of the new Stuu'ate Lelum Secondary School for the First Nation community of Chemainus. The new secondary school will serve the Chemainus First Nation community's Grade 7-12 students and replace the existing educational facility.

**26 March**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding*

The Government of Canada is taking action to ensure members of Norway House Cree Nation have the ability to treat wastewater in an environmentally sustainable way by creating a new lagoon for this community. This project is part of the \$165 million for water and wastewater projects included in the \$1.4 billion investment for Aboriginal peoples under the Economic Action Plan.

**26 March**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Housing*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians announces progress on improving housing conditions for Alberta First Nations communities. The Government of Canada has committed \$400 million over the next two years to support on-reserve housing. The funds are dedicated to new social housing projects, remediation of existing social housing stock and to complementary housing activities through programming from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

**31 March**

*Aboriginal Politics  
Auditor General  
Report*

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has made satisfactory progress in converting lands to reserve status, says the Auditor General of Canada, Sheila Fraser, in a report that is released today in the House of Commons. In the last three years, it has converted more than 315,000 acres of land to reserves in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, a 42 percent increase since an audit in 2005.

**1 April**

*Aboriginal Politics  
British Columbia  
Treaty Commission*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announces the appointment of Sophie Pierre as Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission. Her appointment officially begins April 2.

**6 April**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Employment*

Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon–Wanuskewin, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces support for a series of forums that will bring the supply and demand sides of the labour market equation together. Through the Sector Council Program, the Government of Canada is providing over \$490,000 to the Aboriginal Human Resource Council to co-ordinate and apply. Workforce Connex, a national forum series that links Aboriginal people to regional partners that offer employment training, recruitment and job retention solutions.

**9 April**

*Aboriginal Politics  
Canada,  
British Columbia  
Maa-nulth  
First Nations  
Final Agreement*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, and Michael de Jong, British Columbia's Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation join the five Maa-nulth First Nations to complete the signing of the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement. This is the third Final Agreement in British Columbia to be signed by Canada, British Columbia and First Nations.

**17 April**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Employment training*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces the Government of Canada's investment of \$75 million, over two years for the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund. The Fund

will strengthen partnerships between Aboriginal employment service organizations and employers through training-to-employment programs linked to concrete job opportunities.

**24 April**

*Aboriginal Politics  
First Nations Bank  
of Canada*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announces an innovative partnership with the First Nations Bank of Canada to provide debt financing to First Nation businesses with assets on a reserve. Under the arrangement, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will provide \$2.6 million to establish a loan loss reserve fund with the First Nations Bank of Canada. The reserve fund will be used by financial institutions as collateral to finance loans to medium and large First Nation businesses with the assets needed to secure the loan located on a reserve.

**4 May**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Employment Training*

John Duncan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces that the Government of Canada will support Aboriginal Peoples by launching the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund application process. Canada's Economic Action Plan provides \$75 million for the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund over two years. The Fund's objective is to strengthen partnerships between Aboriginal organizations and employers to help Aboriginal people gain the skills they need for the labour market.

**7 May**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Aboriginal Human  
Resource Council*

Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon–Wanuskewin, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces the Aboriginal Human Resource Council that provides national coordination, guidance and transition support to regional Aboriginal trades and apprenticeship projects currently underway across Canada. To date, the project has already received \$2.9 million in funding from the federal government.

**14 May**

*Aboriginal Politics  
Indian Oil and  
Gas Act*

Legislation modernizing the *Indian Oil and Gas Act* receives Royal Assent. The amendments to the Act will allow the Government of Canada to better fulfill its obligation to manage oil and gas resources on reserve lands. With passage of the bill into law, the Government of Canada is eliminating the regulatory gap that exists between on-reserve and off-reserve oil and gas activities. By bringing federal legislation in line with similar legislation in the provinces, the new law will create a more transparent and efficient regime for oil and gas operations on reserve lands, thereby encouraging industry investment and economic development in First Nation communities.

**19 May**

*Aboriginal Politics*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announces a

*federal funding  
Aboriginal Energy  
Partnership*

contribution to the Aboriginal Energy Partnership to establish a new fund that will support Aboriginal involvement in renewable energy hydro projects in British Columbia. The Aboriginal Energy Partnership is a new partnership between two Aboriginal capital corporations, Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation and Tribal Resources Investment Corporation. Ecotrust Canada Capital, a subsidiary corporation of Ecotrust Canada, will manage the new \$7 million fund. The Aboriginal Energy Partnership and Ecotrust Canada will each contribute \$2 million to the new fund, with the remaining \$3 million being provided by the Government of Canada.

**23 May**  
*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Employment*

Rona Ambrose, Minister of Labour on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development announces \$4 million in federal funding of two Edmonton-based organizations for Aboriginal organizations: Yellowhead Tribal Development Foundation and the Métis Settlements General Council. Through funding, the two organizations deliver employment programs and services including employment counselling, training and skills upgrading and other labour market supports such as child care.

**1 June**  
*Aboriginal Politics  
Protests  
Border shut down*

Amidst protests by Mohawks of the Akwesasne territory near Cornwall, over border guards carrying ammunition, Canadian authorities shut down the border crossing at the Seaway International Bridge. Mohawk leaders remain firm in protesting against the new gun policy requiring all border guards to carry 9 mm hand guns.

**5 June**  
*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Rail Transportation*

Transport Minister John Baird, announces \$5.8 million in federal funding to the Tshiuetin Rail Transportation – a passenger and freight rail company owned and operated by three First Nations communities – for capital improvements of the rail line and the passenger rail service between Sept-Îles and Schefferville. Of the total \$5.8 million funding, \$2 million comes from existing capital funding and \$3.8 million from funding under the Economic Action Plan.

**10 June**  
*Aboriginal Politics  
Federal government  
Cree-Naskapi  
(of Quebec)*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, introduces a bill in the House of Commons to amend the Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act. The bill aims to give increased bylaw-making authority to the Cree of Eeyou Istchee. Under the New Relationship Agreement, the Government of Canada promises to bring forward certain specified amendments to the Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act. The amendments make this promise a reality and will provide the necessary powers for the Cree of Eeyou Istchee to assume greater responsibility for economic and community development, as well as to achieve increased autonomy. The Cree of Eeyou Istchee will also receive \$100 million within 30 days of the amendments receiving Royal Assent.

**16 June**

*Aboriginal Politics*  
*Federal government*  
*Maa-nulth First Nations*  
*Bill C-41*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, along with the five Maa-nulth First Nations and the British Columbia Treaty Commission announce Bill C-41. This Maa-nulth First Nations Agreement brings certainty to the ownership and use of lands and resources in the area, creates opportunities for Maa-nulth First Nations and provides predictability for continued development and growth in the province. The Final Agreement includes roughly 24,550 hectares of land, and a capital transfer of \$73.1 million, is passed by the House of Commons and has moved on to the Senate.

**17 June**

*Aboriginal Politics*  
*federal funding*

Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board and Member of Parliament for Provencher, on behalf of Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announces a \$3 million contribution to Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) to help it partner in a hydroelectric project within the First Nations traditional territory in northern Manitoba.

**23 June**

*Aboriginal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Employment training*

Greg Rickford, Member of Parliament for Kenora, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces the Government of Canada's \$5.3 million support for Aboriginal People's access to new skills and employment training initiative. The Whitefeather Forest Training Initiative will provide Aboriginal people with the skills and employment experience required to work in the mining and forestry industries. This initiative is funded through the federal government's Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program, that provides Aboriginal people with the training and skills they need to take advantage of job opportunities in industries such as northern mining, oil and gas, forestry, and fishing.

**1 July**

*Aboriginal Politics*  
*Cornwall, Ontario*  
*Border*

Mohawks file an application asking the Federal Court to order the Minister of Public Works, Peter Van Loon to reopen the Cornwall, Ontario border. On May 30<sup>th</sup> the Aboriginal Peoples of the area protested the arming of customs agents at the United States and Canada border. The guards fled their Cornwall Island post, saying they feared violence, and the federal government shut down the crossing. Since then, cross-border travellers have had to take long detours or navigate the St. Lawrence.

**13 July**

*Aboriginal Politics*  
*Cornwall Border*

The Canada Border Services Agency opens a temporary border crossing in Cornwall, Ontario, more than a month after a permanent outpost was shut due to protestors. The makeshift post includes tents and trailers and is at the base of the north span of the Seaway International bridge over the St. Lawrence River. The Mohawk protesters continue to protest arguing that border guards should not carry guns as it violates Mohawk sovereignty and increases the likelihood of violent confrontations.



**13 July**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Urban Aboriginals*

On behalf of James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Mike Lake, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry and Member of Parliament Edmonton-Mill Woods-Beaumont, announces \$150,000 in funding for the Métis Child and Family Services Society. This funding will be used to support Choices, a partnership project that aims to provide culturally appropriate programs and support services to urban Aboriginal young people to improve success in school and encourage the pursuit of education.

**20 July**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians and Member of Parliament for Chilliwack - Fraser Canyon, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification), announces \$52,500 in federal support for a heat and energy project in Lillooet to stimulate and grow the local economy. The T'it'q'et Economic Development Authority, in collaboration with the Canim Lake Indian Band, will conduct a feasibility study to investigate heat and energy opportunities in the area. The feasibility study will be a concrete step towards the creation of permanent and seasonal jobs.

**20 July**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Debt Financing*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status Indians, announces a funding arrangement with Desjardins Group to provide debt financing to First Nation businesses in Quebec with assets on a reserve. The Government of Canada will provide \$3 million through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's pilot Loan Loss Reserve Initiative. The reserve fund works by offsetting a portion of the lender's potential losses on loans to First Nation businesses, thus reducing the financial risks associated with lending to on-reserve First Nation businesses.

**21 July**

*Aboriginal Politics  
federal funding  
Education*

Funding from the Government of Canada will support the planning, design and construction of a new grade five to eight school in St. Theresa Point First Nation. This extension is part of \$102 million for school construction in First Nations communities over a three-year period, beginning in 2009-2010 and ending in 2011-2012. The school investment for St. Theresa Point First Nation is one of eight new schools or school renovation projects funded through the \$33 billion Building Canada Plan.

**21 July**

*Aboriginal Politics  
Canada, Alberta  
Cree Nation  
Joint Funding  
Education*

The Government of Canada, along with other government partners, is helping to build a new kindergarten to grade six school to replace the existing facilities so that members of Kehewin Cree Nation have access to quality learning environments. This investment was made possible through the Government's \$33 billion Building Canada Plan. The Cree Nation will provide \$661,000 of its own funds and approximately \$7.6 million has been allocated through the FNDF grant program administered by the Government of Alberta, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations.

**24 July**

*Aboriginal Politics*  
*AFN new Chief*

Shawn Atleo is the new national chief of Canada's Assembly of First Nations (AFN), succeeding Phil Fontaine who declined to seek a fourth term. Under Mr. Fontaine's historic three terms as national chief, he fought successfully for an official apology for victims abused in the residential school system, advocated for Parliament to approve billions of dollars in compensation and fought for today's truth and reconciliation commission. Mr. Fontaine helped negotiate the Kelowna Accord under Prime Minister Paul Martin, but was unable to get it through under Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government. Chief Atleo is elected the AFN's 30<sup>th</sup> annual general assembly in Calgary at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre.

**6 August**

*Aboriginal Politics*  
*federal funding*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, and Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, announce the recipients of the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) portion of on-reserve housing funding committed through Canada's Economic Action Plan for this fiscal year. Canada's Economic Action Plan is investing \$400 million over two years to support on-reserve housing. The funds are dedicated to new social housing projects, the remediation of existing social housing and complementary housing activities through programming from INAC and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

**11 August**

*Aboriginal Politics*  
*federal funding*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians and Member of Parliament for Chilliwack - Fraser Canyon, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification), announces the Government of Canada support of \$6,758,707 to help the Stó:lo Nation Society strengthen economic opportunities for the Stó:lo people and surrounding Chilliwack region.

**24 August**

*Aboriginal Politics*  
*Indian Act*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announces the federal government's plan for the registration provisions of the Indian Act in the wake of the landmark ruling of the Court of Appeal for British Columbia in the Sharon McIvor case.

**1 September**

*Aboriginal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Health*

Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, announces an investment of \$135 million for new construction and the renovation of health services infrastructure in First Nations communities across Canada. This funding, a major stimulus under the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan, supports more than 40 projects involving new construction of health

services infrastructure, and approximately 230 renovations of existing infrastructure.

**9 November**

*Aboriginal Politics  
Gitxsan People  
Citizenship*

Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl will meet with a delegation of the Gitxsan People from northwest British Columbia next month. The Gitxsan People are requesting that their 13,000 member tribe be allowed to abandon their status as "Indians." The group may relinquish reserves, tax exemptions, Indian Act housing and financial supports in exchange for a share of resources. The First Nation's treaty team, led by hereditary chiefs, proposes the Gitxsan would become regular Canadian citizens, governed by municipal, provincial and federal governments. The Gitxsan want a share of the resources that are taken from their 33,000-square-kilometre traditional territories, to be managed by their traditional system of clans and houses.

**19 November**

*Aboriginal Politics  
Nisga'a First Nation*

The Nisga'a First Nation passes the Nisga'a Landholding Transition Act at a meeting of its Wilp Si'ayuukhl legislative council. The Act is the culmination of a three-year effort meant to drive economic development in the community of about 6,000 people by allowing members of the nation to realize value from their land. This Act makes the Nisga'a the first band in Canada whose members are able to put their name on a title and become fee-simple owners of once federally owned reservation land.

**AGRICULTURE**

**9 January**

*Agriculture  
Agri- Food  
Canada Market*

Minister Ritz announces the creation of an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada market access secretariat to better co-ordinate government initiatives with producers and industry to target new markets and keep pace with international competitors. The secretariat will include a range of trade experts and will work towards gaining expanded access beyond the U.S. for agricultural and agri-food products in promising markets such as Mexico, China, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Russia, and Saudi Arabia.

**20 January**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is investing \$116,375 from the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food program for research into ways farmers can convert crop residue, such as a straw and chaff, into standardized materials that can be used for oilsands soil remediation, erosion control, hydroponic mulch, and solid fuels such as fire logs in Alberta.

**22 January**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture) was at the Soils and Crops Research Development Centre today in Quebec to announce that CBN will receive \$19.9 million in funding. The research done

by CBN will aid in the creation of biofuels from agricultural waste, which will help Canadian farmers with marketing opportunities in the energy sector.

**23 January**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

Brad Trost, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Humboldt, on behalf of Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, announces a new initiative in support of biofuels and livestock industries in Saskatchewan.

**29 January**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

The Government of Canada is investing in new technology that will help create additional opportunities for local employment. The funding will support Haida Gwaii Foods Processing Cooperative's efforts to refine the technology to produce dried wild chanterelles. Funding for this project is provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program, and delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) of British Columbia.

**19 February**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

Mark Parent, Minister of Agriculture for Nova Scotia announces that the Government of Canada will invest \$218,000 in research to expand market opportunities and help make the Atlantic apple industry more competitive.

**19 February**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture), announces funding to help create and diversify new markets for Canadian producers of pigments from natural sources. The funding will help Colarôme Inc. bring its natural pigment products to market sooner to the benefit of Canadian farmers and our economy. Colarôme Inc. will receive over \$781,000 under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agri-Opportunities Program in the form of a repayable contribution.

**23 February**

*Agriculture  
Canada Grain Act*

The Government of Canada introduces amendments to the Canada Grain Act to modernize the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) in order to better reflect the current realities facing grain farmers. The suggested changes to the Act and CGC are consistent with the goals expressed in the Government's Growing Forward framework for Agriculture. They will contribute to building a lower-cost, more effective and innovative grain sector.

**2 March**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

Senator Fabian Manning, Tom Hedderson, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Mike Cooke, Chief Operating Officer, Cooke Aquaculture, announce an \$8.5 million project to develop a commercial scale cod aquaculture demonstration farm in Newfoundland and Labrador.

**4 March**

*Agriculture*

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz is holding roundtable meetings with farmers in Saskatchewan, Ontario, Manitoba, and Alberta as part of an

*Federal roundtable*

ongoing commitment to get input directly from farmers when developing agricultural policies. The government's Economic Action Plan delivers \$500 million to the agricultural flexibility program.

**5 March**

*Agriculture  
Tax amendments*

Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance proposes tax amendments to help farmers who have had to reduce their breeding herds of grazing livestock as a result of flood or excessive moisture. These income tax amendments will permit farmers, who dispose of such breeding livestock in a taxation year because of flood or excessive moisture, to exclude a portion of the sale proceeds from their incomes until the following taxation year. As a result, the full amount of the proceeds eligible for the deferral will be available to replenish their herds in the following taxation year.

**6 March**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Member of Parliament Rick Casson (Lethbridge) announce a \$15.5 million investment in the Canadian Triticale Biorefinery Initiative (CTBI) research network. Triticale is a hybrid of wheat and rye that can be used to produce an ethanol feedstock that will be grown and supplied by Canadian farmers. The network will also find new ways of developing triticale plants for its biomaterials, that can be used in the Canadian manufacturing industry.

**19 March**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

The Government of Canada is creating new economic opportunities for farmers by investing in research that will expand market possibilities. Member of Parliament Joe Preston for Elgin-Middlesex-London announces \$8.7 million in funding to develop technologies that will increase the industrial value of the surplus cereal straw that is now left out on the field.

**30 March**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture Pierre Lemieux and Member of Parliament for Perth-Wellington Gary Schellenberger announce a federal investment in the hog industry to develop and implement biosecurity best management practices, research projects and long-term disease risk management solutions.

**1 April**

*Agriculture  
Canada,  
British Columbia  
Bilateral Agreement*

British Columbia Agriculture and Lands Minister Ron Cantelon and Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz sign the Growing Forward bilateral and contribution agreement, making way for new agricultural programs for farmers in British Columbia. This agreement is a national agriculture framework to coordinate federal and provincial agriculture policy. Federal, provincial, and territorial governments are delivering \$1.3 billion to Canadian farm families from 2008 to 2013.

**7 April**

*Agriculture  
Canada, Saskatchewan*

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornrud sign the *Growing Forward* bilateral and contribution agreement. This agreement will deliver more than \$216

<i>Bilateral agreement</i>	million for non-Business Risk Management agriculture programs in Saskatchewan over the next four years.
<b>7 April</b> <i>Agriculture Trade and Market Development Program Launch</i>	As part of the new Growing Forward Agricultural Framework, the Government of Canada launches the Trade and Market Development Program to help Canadian farmers and exporters sell more products to more international customers. A key component of the program is the AgriMarketing program that will sell more of Canada's safe, high-quality world-class products around the world.
<b>9 April</b> <i>Agriculture Canada, British Columbia Roundtable</i>	Pierre Lemieux, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture sits down with British Columbia farmers, producers and vintners to get their input on agriculture policies and to let to them know about programs the Government of Canada is delivering for farm families. Hosts of the farmer roundtables included Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and Member of Parliament Chuck Strahl (Chilliwack-Fraser Canyon), Member of Parliament Ed Fast (Abottsford) and Member of Parliament Ron Cannan (Kelowna-Lake Country).
<b>16 April</b> <i>Agriculture Tomato farmers</i>	The governments of Canada and Ontario are creating new opportunities in southwestern Ontario by delivering 40 kilometres of pipeline that will provide water for tomato farmers and enhance their production and competitiveness.
<b>24 April</b> <i>Agriculture Canada, Alberta Growing Forward</i>	The Governments of Canada and Alberta have signed off on a \$273 million investment to give Alberta farmers stable, bankable programs and to make key investments in innovation and marketing. The Government of Canada and Alberta have worked with farmers every step of the way to develop the Growing Forward framework.
<b>28 April</b> <i>Agriculture Canada, Yukon Growing Forward</i>	The governments of Canada and Yukon have signed off on an almost \$5 million investment for Yukon farmers with the launch of a new suite programs under Growing Forward. The funding and programs are a result of new bilateral agreements that reflect a five year commitment to help position Canadian farmers for success.
<b>4 May</b> <i>Agriculture New loan guarantees</i>	Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz introduces new legislation to guarantee an estimated \$1 billion in loans over the next five years to Canadian farm families and cooperatives, most of which will go to farmers and cooperatives who were previously ineligible.
<b>8 May</b> <i>Agriculture federal funding</i>	On behalf of the Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, Candice Hoepfner, Member of Parliament for Portage-Lisgar, announces \$250,000 in funding to modernize the Morden Research Station in Morden,

Manitoba. The funding, one of the many job-creating investments in the Economic Action Plan, will improve federal laboratory facilities while providing economic stimulus in regions across the country.

**9 May**

*Agriculture  
Federal Funding  
Research*

David Anderson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources and for the Canadian Wheat Board, on behalf of Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announces that the Government of Canada is creating jobs and driving research by delivering \$5 million over the next two years, to modernize the Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre (SPARC).

**19 May**

*Agriculture  
federal funding  
Research*

Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture), announces a federal investment of \$350,000 to modernize the pesticide testing laboratory at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Horticulture Research and Development Centre in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. The investment will allow for the renovation of the existing laboratory to update and better support pesticide research, an important area for farmers.

**19 June**

*Agriculture  
Canadian Agriculture  
Loans Act*

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture) announces that Bill C-29 has received Royal Assent. The Canadian Agricultural Loans Act (CALA), formerly known as the Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act, is now greatly expanded to allow beginning farmers and more agricultural co-operatives to take advantage of loans which is expected to result in an estimated \$1 billion in loans over the next five years.

**26 June**

*Agriculture  
Canada, Saskatchewan  
Joint funding*

David Anderson, Member of Parliament for Cypress Hills - Grasslands and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources and to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food for the Canadian Wheat Board and Lyle Stewart, Member of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly for Thunder Creek, announce support from the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan to help the Riverhurst Irrigation District Inc. and Luck Lake Irrigation District, Inc. strengthen economic opportunities in the communities of Riverhurst, Central Butte, Lucky Lake and Birsay, and the Rural Municipalities of Maple Bush, Enfield, Coteau and Canaan. This funding will provide long-term benefits for irrigation producers and their local communities. Federal funding of \$3,330,000 is being provided under the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF). The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture is contributing an additional \$370,000.

**9 July**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announces that the Government of Canada commits \$13 million to combat wheat stem rust, a fungus which may eventually pose a threat to Canada's wheat production. The

*Wheat Industry*

investment will be used to develop new varieties of wheat resistant to this fungus. This strain of wheat stem rust, known as Ug99, is not currently a threat to Canadian wheat crops, but the strain has been spreading slowly east across Africa, into Yemen and Sudan. The fungus is expected to reach Egypt, Turkey, the Middle East and India, and scientists agree that it is only a matter of time before Ug99 reaches the crops of North America.

**10 July**

*Agriculture  
federal funding  
Environment*

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture) Jean Pierre Blackburn, announce the environmental portion of the Growing Forward framework. Worth almost \$200 million over five years, this federal investment will deliver results for a cleaner, healthier environment for Canadians through environmentally responsible agriculture practices. Funding will support initiatives to help farmers transfer research and knowledge into practice and to use science to improve their outcomes. Technical assistance to farmers on land use and planning will be available, as well as information tools and data to help farmers achieve even greater results for the environment.

**10 July**

*Agriculture  
Federal Funding  
Livestock Auction  
Traceability Initiative*

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture) Jean-Pierre Blackburn announce a new \$20 million Livestock Auction Traceability Initiative that tracks Canadian livestock from the grocery store back to the original farm gate. The Government of Canada will deliver \$20 million through the Livestock Auction Traceability Initiative to upgrade handling systems in facilities to keep track of individual animals as they are mixed with other herds in auction marts and other facilities such as community pastures.

**22 July**

*Agriculture  
Tax deferrals  
Manitoba*

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announces that livestock producers in Alberta will be eligible for tax deferrals on breeding livestock sold due to the drought in Alberta. The tax deferral allows eligible producers in designated areas to defer income tax on the sale of breeding livestock for one year to help replenish breeding stock in the following year. In the case of consecutive years of drought designation, producers may defer sales income to the first year in which the area is no longer designated.

**22 July**

*Agriculture  
Tax deferrals  
Alberta*

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announces livestock producers in Manitoba in areas affected by excessive moisture will be eligible for tax deferrals on breeding livestock sold in 2009. Producers who reduced their breeding herds by at least 15 percent are eligible. Thirty percent of income from net sales can be deferred if the herd has been reduced by at least 15 percent, but less than 30 percent. Where the herd has been reduced by 30 percent or more, 90 percent of income from net sales can be deferred.

**26 August**

*Agriculture*

Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture and Agri-Food), meets with Mr. David Wagner, President



*federal funding*

and CEO of Atlantic Hydrogen Inc., and personally delivered \$1,102,000 in scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) investment tax credits earned by the company. During a tour of the company's facility in Fredericton, Minister Blackburn spoke about the importance of the SR&ED program as the largest source of federal government support for industrial research and development.

**11 September**

*Agriculture  
federal funding*

The Government of Canada is investing \$50 million over five years in new processing technologies (The AgriProcessing Initiative). The government projects that this will create new, more stable markets to improve income opportunities for farmers and the processing sector.

**BUDGET**

**27 January**

*Budget  
Federal government*

Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, tables a comprehensive budget plan to stimulate economic growth, restore confidence and support Canadians and their families during a global recession. Canada's Economic Action Plan will provide almost \$30 billion in support to the Canadian economy this year. In total, this is equivalent to 1.9 percent of our total economy. The budget also includes plans to spend \$40 billion over two years on measures to kick start the economy, including infrastructure, social housing, home retrofits, parks, tourism, railways and Arctic research. It also includes \$2 billion in income tax cuts. To access the federal budget visit: [www.budget.gc.ca/2009/home-accueil-eng.asp](http://www.budget.gc.ca/2009/home-accueil-eng.asp).

**28 January**

*Budget  
federal government*

Stephen Harper's minority government wins approval for a federal budget that will run the country into a deficit. The budget passed by a vote of 211-91 with NDP and Bloc Quebecois voting No.

**28 January**

*Budget  
Federal government*

Michael Ignatieff asks for changes in the budget. The Liberals announce that they will support the budget if the Conservatives provide progress reports to the House in March, June, and December 2009.

**3 February**

*Budget  
Federal government  
Liberal amendments*

The Conservative government backs the Liberal amendments to the budget. Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff had announced that he would only support the Conservative Party's budget if the government agreed to provide regular budget updates in March, June, and December 2009 that would determine whether or not the Conservatives are successfully implementing a budget that is helping Canada and its citizens. At each update, a confidence vote would be held.

**17 February**

*Budget*

The British Columbia government releases their eighth budget since being elected in 2001. The government increases the overall operating budget

*British Columbia*

and they softened their earlier commitment to keep the province a “deficit-free zone.” For more information visit:  
<http://www.cfs.bc.ca/mysql/Mem%20Adv-2009%20BC%20Budget.pdf>.

**6 March**

*Budget*

*Federal government*

*Debt Management*

*Report*

Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, tables the Debt Management Report for 2007–08 in Parliament, noting that demand for Government of Canada securities remains strong because of Canada’s fiscal advantage and that the significant debt reduction allows the Government to support the economy and keep the interest rates low.

**12 March**

*Budget*

*Federal government*

Budget 2009 passes in the Senate by a vote of 50 to 4. For more information visit: <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2009/pdf/brief-bref-eng.pdf>.

**18 March**

*Budget*

*Saskatchewan*

The government of Saskatchewan releases its budget that promises tax cuts and stimulus spending. Finance Minister Rod Gantfoer forecast a \$425 million surplus for the coming year, even while the economy absorbs a 12 percent spending increase, a massive property tax reduction and high commodity prices. For more information visit:  
<http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget/>.

**19 March**

*Budget*

*Quebec*

The government of Quebec releases its budget projecting a deficit, but it says a one percent sales-tax increase beginning January 1, 2011, will eventually help eliminate it. For more information visit:  
[http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/Budget/2009-2010/index\\_en.asp](http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/Budget/2009-2010/index_en.asp).

**25 March**

*Budget*

*Manitoba*

Manitoba tables its \$12.7 billion balanced budget that tries to stave off shrinking economic growth by increasing tobacco taxes and user fees to pay for \$226 million in new spending. Manitoba is boasting a \$48 million surplus. For more information visit:  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/budget09/index.html>.

**27 March**

*Budget*

*Newfoundland*

*Labrador*

Finance Minister Jerome Kennedy tables the budget to Newfoundland and Labrador saying NL will finish the current fiscal year with a total surplus of \$2.4 billion, with nearly half of that attributed to a one-time payment based on the 2005 Atlantic Accord. He does acknowledge that there will be a deficit for 2009-2010 at approximately \$750 million.

**30 March**

*Budget*

*Toronto*

Toronto releases its budget. Toronto council last night adopted an \$8.7 billion operating budget with a 4% residential property tax hike, despite a coordinated effort to slash the increase in half with spending cuts characterized as “modest.” The 2009 operating budget is \$500 million larger than last year’s but achieved \$102 million in efficiencies, mostly from not filling \$70 million worth of vacant jobs. It contains an average property tax increase of 1.3% for commercial and industrial property

owners, and a tax reduction for small business and tenants. For more information visit: <http://www.toronto.ca/budget2009/index.htm>.

### **3 April**

*Budget  
Federal government  
Progress Report*

The Canadian government says it cannot report any progress yet in striking deals with provinces and cities for matching funds required to deliver the full economic stimulus package it announced two months ago. The Harper government's January 27 budget plans to fight the recession quickly were premised in part on getting \$11.6 billion from provinces and municipalities to jointly fund infrastructure and housing projects. Most provinces have already unveiled their 2009 budgets, where they outlined spending plans for this year. Only three, including Alberta, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, have yet to table fiscal plans.

### **7 April**

*Budget  
Alberta*

The Alberta government releases its budget. It plans to spend \$36.4 billion to maintain important government programs and services. For more information visit: <http://budget2009.alberta.ca/>

## **COURTS**

### **3 March**

*Court  
Ontario  
Religious rights*

Justice Frank Marrocco of the Ontario Superior Court overturns the decision of provincial court judge, Justice Norris Weisman. Weisman had concluded that a woman who wanted to wear a hijab that covers all of her face to give evidence about being sexually assaulted was more a reflection of "comfort" than belief, and instructed her to remove it. Judge Marrocco ordered that the preliminary inquiry convene two hearings to determine whether the woman's beliefs are sincere. There was uncertainty surrounding her beliefs because the woman has an Ontario driver's licence with a photograph of her unveiled.

### **27 March**

*Courts  
Supreme Court  
of Newfoundland and  
Labrador  
Chief Justice appointment*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces the appointment of Chief Justice J. Derek Green, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, Trial Division, as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, Court of Appeal. He replaces Chief Justice Clyde K. Wells, who retired in February 2009.

### **7 April**

*Courts  
British Columbia  
Court of Appeal  
Freedom of expression*

The British Columbia Court of Appeal issues a ruling that allows Adbusters Media Foundation to pursue legal action against the CBC and CanWest Global for refusing to screen its anti-consumerist television advertisements. Adbusters' legal counsel, Mark Underhill, said that the significance of the case lies in whether private broadcasters given a license to operate by Parliament have the right to determine who gets to speak on the public airwaves. Adbusters launched a legal challenge after the CBC pulled its anti-car television advertisement, Autosaurus, from its

automotive show Driver's Seat. In February, 2008, the B.C. Supreme Court under Mr. Justice William Ehrcke rejected Adbusters' claim that refusing to air the ads was a violation of the right to freedom of expression. The Charter, he said, citing the previous ruling on CBC, did not apply to private corporations. That decision was overturned on Friday, when the B.C. Court of Appeal unanimously rejected the original ruling that the charter did not apply to the CBC, and in consequence, overturned the decision to throw out the case against CanWest Global.

## **10 April**

*Court*  
*Supreme Court of*  
*Canada*  
*Property Rights*

The Supreme Court of Canada announces that governments have the right to sift through personal garbage once it reaches one's property line, concluding a classic contest over property rights. In a 7-0 ruling, the Court said the rubbish is fair game for police, tax investigators or any other government scrutineer. The Court conceded that garbage contains a broad spectrum of highly private material, ranging from an individual's DNA to banking documents and intimate communications that individuals might well want to keep confidential. But it noted that garbage is discarded for a reason - because it is no longer wanted - which greatly reduces any claim to privacy.

## **24 April**

*Court*  
*Federal Court*  
*Omar Khadr affair*

A Federal Court judge found that Omar Khadr's human rights were violated and orders Ottawa to ask Washington for the return of the detained Canadian Omar Khadr. United States forces detained Mr. Khadr, 22, after a July, 2002, firefight in Afghanistan in which he suffered several gunshot wounds and other serious injuries. He faced numerous charges before the controversial Guantanamo Bay military commissions system. The most serious charge relates to the alleged murder of a U.S. soldier during the firefight. Mr. Khadr has been in U.S. detention since the age of 15. Mr. Khadr was scheduled to go on trial in Guantanamo earlier this year. However, U.S. President Barack Obama effectively shut down the commissions system before it could get under way. It is unclear now whether Mr. Khadr will be returned to Canada - where legal experts believe it would be virtually impossible to try him on similar charges - or be handed over to another U.S. judicial system.

## **7 May**

*Court*  
*Federal Court*  
*Abdelrazik affair*

The Federal Court rules in Abousfian Abdelrazik's favour and ordered the Canadian government to facilitate his return home. Abdelrazik is a Sudanese born Canadian dual citizen who was accused of having ties to al-Qaeda. Mr. Abdelrazik remains on the UN blacklist of al-Qaeda suspects despite being cleared by Canada's antiterrorist agencies.

## **5 June**

*Courts*  
*Federal Court*  
*Abdelrazik affair*

The Federal Court rules to take "immediate action" to bring Abousfian Abdelrazik home from Sudan. It concluded that the government made promises of providing a passport to Mr. Abdelrazik - who was cleared by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the RCMP - but without any intention of returning him to Canada.

**17 June**

*Court  
Supreme Court  
of Canada  
Park's case*

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court of Canada ultimately upholds Mr. Parks's jury acquittal in the May 24, 1987, stabbing death of Barbara Ann Woods. Psychiatrists testified at Mr. Parks's trial that he had a family history of sleep disorders and was under considerable stress after losing his job and going into serious debt from gambling. Known as parasomnia, sleep disorders are manifested during the deepest part of the sleep cycle - the slow-wave stage - when waking up is difficult.

**3 September**

*Courts  
Canadian Human  
Rights Tribunal  
Hate speech*

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal rules that Section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Code (protection against hate speech) violates section 2(b) (freedom of expression), of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The decision by Tribunal member Athanasios Hadjis appears to strip the Canadian Human Rights Commission of its controversial legal mandate to pursue hate on the Internet, which it has strenuously defended against complaints of censorship. It also marks the first major failure of Section 13(1) of the Canadian Human Rights Act, an anti-hate law that was conceived in the 1960s to target racist telephone hotlines, then expanded in 2001 to include the entire Internet, and for the last decade used almost exclusively by one complainant.

**18 September**

*Courts  
Federal Board  
Employment Insurance  
Parental benefits*

The Federal Board rules that parents of twins can both receive Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. Lawyer Stephen Moreau said the three-member board's unanimous decision will have "significant persuasive effect" on other EI panels, although they will not be bound by its outcome. Under current EI rules, new parents can share up to 35 weeks of EI benefits, which are calculated based on salary to a maximum of \$447 a week. To qualify, claimants must have worked 600 insured hours in the 52 weeks preceding their claim. In addition, mothers can receive 15 weeks of pregnancy leave after giving birth.

**17 October**

*Courts  
Supreme Court of  
Canada  
Securities Regulator*

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty argues it is outdated for Canada to be one of the few major countries that lacks a single securities regulator. The Harper government is asking the Supreme Court to rule on whether Ottawa has the power to create a national securities regulator.

## ENVIRONMENT

**16 January**

*Environment  
Energy Efficiency*

Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources announces the release of a new guide to energy efficiency for industry. The Energy Savings Toolbox, developed in conjunction with provinces, territories and industry stakeholders, provides a step-by- step methodology to help industry identify and capitalize on energy savings.

**23 January**

*Environment  
federal funding  
WinSmart Project*

Steven Fletcher, Minister of State (Democratic Reform), announces that the federal government has invested \$185,325 in a new WinSmart biodiesel fuelling station. This is just one of the many green transportation measures that the City of Winnipeg is implementing.

**26 January**

*Environment  
Canadian  
Environmental  
Assessment Agency*

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission issued two documents today, the final Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines and the Joint Review Panel Agreement, related to Ontario Power Generation's proposed Deep Geologic Repository project, located in the Municipality of Kincardine, Ontario.

**6 February**

*Environment  
Alberta*

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach pledges an incentive program that would provide "short-term targeted assistance" for junior and mid-capitalization energy players. Mr. Stelmach's move came as the Canadian Energy Research Institute (CERI) released a report estimating that nearly \$100-billion in spending already planned for the oil sands will never materialize. Canada's Environment Commissioner Scott Vaughan says that the government's plan to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions is not delivering on the promise of "real, measurable and verifiable results." The Environment Commissioner's audit report found no evidence to support the emission-reduction claims associated with the government's \$1.5 billion clean-air and climate-change trust fund and the \$365 million public-transit tax credit. Auditors found the original estimates of success for these programs were flawed. For more details see: [http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/mr\\_20090205\\_e\\_32114.html](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/mr_20090205_e_32114.html).

**6 February**

*Environment  
Environment  
Commissioner's  
Report*

**10 February**

*Environment  
Canada  
Alberta  
Syncrude*

Alberta and Ottawa charge Syncrude with breaking environmental laws after Canada was humiliated last spring by the image of hundreds of oil-soaked ducks dying in a toxic by-product of the oil sands. Syncrude Canada Ltd. faces fines of up to \$800,000 if convicted under provincial and federal environmental legislation in connection with the deaths of 500 waterfowl at one of its tailing ponds north of Fort McMurray, Alberta.

**16 February**

*Environment  
federal funding*

Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, announces support for eight projects in Prince Edward Island that will improve and protect the province's water resources and wetlands. Federal funding of \$397,280 for these projects will be made under the Canada-Prince Edward Island

National Water Program (CPEINWP), which focuses on environmental training, soil and water conservation projects, research on nitrogen leaching and better identification of the province's wetlands.

**23 February**

*Environment  
Ontario  
funding*

George Smitherman, Ontario's Energy Minister, unveils the government of Ontario's plan to transform the way Ontario generates and uses electricity. Bill 150, proposes sweeping change to the electricity system by allowing producers of renewable energy such as wind and solar power access to the transmission grid. It promises attractive prices for the power that is produced in these small projects. Mr. Smitherman estimates that the green energy squeezing out fossil fuels - combined with the \$5 billion that will need to be spent on upgraded, "smart" transmission lines - will boost a consumer's annual bill by just 1 percent. Electricity currently sells in Ontario for about 5 cents kw/h.

**2 March**

*Environment  
Canada, United States  
Cap and Trade*

Minister Jim Prentice arrives in Washington to push for a continental system of emission caps and market-based permit trading that would align Canada's regulatory system with the United States. Environmentalists have criticized Canada's proposed "intensity-based" regulations, which would force companies to meet targets as a percentage of their production. This would benefit oil sands companies, for example, as they could increase emissions as their production grows.

**3 March**

*Environment  
ecoMOBILITY*

On behalf of Canada's Transport Minister John Baird, Rob Merrifield, Minister of State (Transport), announces Round Two of the Government of Canada's ecoMOBILITY program. This program is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging people to take public transit or other sustainable transportation options like walking, cycling and carpooling.

**17 March**

*Environment  
Federal environmental  
assessment  
Exemptions*

Environment Minister Jim Prentice tells a receptive business audience in Calgary that for the next two years certain public projects will be excused from the rigorous federal environmental assessment process. This is intended to streamline the approval process. The federal legislation already exempts scores of projects, including the decommissioning and demolition of buildings, repairs to sidewalks and boardwalks, and removal of signs and benches. But the rules can also exclude from assessment certain types of changes to wind farms, power lines, pipelines and nuclear facilities. Mr. Prentice said there is no limit to the value of projects that may be exempted under the new rules, which take effect immediately, but he would not say what additional types of projects will be excused.

**23 March**

*Environment  
federal funding*

Minister of the Environment Jim Prentice announces that the government will contribute \$2.5 million over five years to the UN Environmental Program's Global Environmental Monitoring System to renew funding for

United Nations water monitoring program. That program used to receive a similar sized budget under the Liberals, but the Conservatives did not renew the full envelope of funding when they came to power in 2006.

**26 March**  
*Environment*  
*federal funding*

Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announces that the Government of Canada will fund eight proposals for the development and demonstration of carbon capture and storage technologies through the ecoENERGY Technology initiative. Successful proposals were submitted by partnerships led or co-led by ARC Resources, Enhance Energy, Spectra Energy Transmission, TransCanada, TransAlta, Husky, Enbridge and EPCOR. Minister Raitt met with the CEOs of each of these companies along with representatives from the British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan governments to establish a network that will share research and expertise in developing and demonstrating carbon capture and storage technologies. Canada's Economic Action Plan includes new measures totaling almost \$2.4 billion to support a cleaner and more sustainable environment and help meet Canada's climate change objectives.

**2 April**  
*Environment*  
*Auto Emissions*  
*Standards*

Environment Minister Jim Prentice says Canada will match new auto emission standards set by the Obama administration. The Conservative government had previously promised mandatory auto emissions for the 2011 model year. Mr. Prentice announces that the target will be met using regulations under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act rather than the original plan to use the Motor Vehicle Fuel Consumption Standards Act.

**8 April**  
*Environment*  
*federal funding*

Earl Dreeshen, Member of Parliament for Red Deer, on behalf of Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announces that the Government of Canada will provide up to \$23.2 million through its ecoENERGY for Biofuels program to Permolex Ltd. The plant in Red Deer has been producing ethanol since 1998. After Permolex Ltd. assumed ownership of the facility in 2003, the plant was expanded with the assistance of the Federal Governments Ethanol Expansion Program.

**15 April**  
*Environment*  
*federal funding*  
*Ontario*

Ben Lobb, Member of Parliament for Huron–Bruce, on behalf of Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announces that the Government of Canada's ecoENERGY for Biofuels program will provide up to \$14 million for GreenField Ethanol's facility in Tiverton, Ontario.

**15 April**  
*Environment*  
*federal funding*  
*Ontario*

Member of Parliament for Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington, Scott Reid, announces that the Government of Canada is contributing up to \$480,500 in repayable funding to Powerbase Energy Systems Inc. This investment will help Powerbase Energy Systems Inc. create a new manufacturing facility to produce power-generating units that process waste into energy. The facility, located in Carleton Place, is expected to



generate approximately \$35.5 million in annual company revenue by 2013.

**17 April**

*Environment  
federal funding*

Dave Van Kesteren, Member of Parliament for Chatham–Kent–Essex, on behalf of Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announces that the Government of Canada's ecoENERGY for Biofuels program will provide up to \$72.8 million to GreenField Ethanol's Chatham facility.

**20 April**

*Environment  
Hydrogen  
Demonstration*

Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, along with Christian Paradis, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, launch a one-of-a-kind hydrogen demonstration project with partners at Montreal's Pierre Elliot Trudeau International Airport. The Government of Canada is a major partner in the project, which will showcase a variety of applications for hydrogen energy technologies at the airport, including a new type of fuelling infrastructure. The Government of Canada is contributing \$2.4 million to the project through the ecoENERGY Technology Initiative. Other partners in the \$11 million demonstration include Air Liquide Canada, and Quebec's Agence de l'efficacité énergétique (AEE).

**22 April**

*Environment  
Report Card*

British Columbia gets the top ranking in a comprehensive "green" report card issued by Toronto-based Corporate Knights magazine that evaluates the environmental performance of Canadian provinces and territories. British Columbia's number 1 ranking results from its top position in providing green jobs, constructing green buildings, growing organic food and its efficient use of energy.

**29 April**

*Environment  
Environment Canada  
report released*

Environment Canada announces that CO2 emissions rose in 2007 to 747 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, up by 4 percent from 718 million tonnes the year before. Emissions were 26 percent above their 1990 level, when modern record-keeping began, violating a key pledge Canada made in the Kyoto Protocol to cut them by 6 percent. Environment Canada did not provide specific figures for the oil sands, but said the mining and oil and gas extraction sector, a classification it uses that includes the mining of Alberta's bitumen, had a 57 percent rise in releases from 2004 to 2007.

**29 April**

*Environment  
Federal government  
Coal plants  
Regulation*

Environment Minister Jim Prentice says regulations are needed for the government to meet its target of making Canada's power plants 90 percent emissions-free by 2020. Prentice says any new coal plants will have to include expensive technology to capture greenhouse gas emissions. Ottawa also plans to impose absolute emission caps on utilities' existing coal-fired power plants and establish a market-based system to allow them to buy credits to meet those targets. Electricity users in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia would be hit hard by the new rules, as their provinces rely on coal for more than 70 percent of their power, and alternatives will be costly. Industry officials say there are few coal-fired power plants ready to be retired before 2020, nor will clean-coal technology be ready for commercial deployment much before that date.

**30 April**

*Environment  
federal funding  
Solar Water Heating  
program*

Pierre Poilievre, Member of Parliament for Nepean–Carleton, announces the investment of \$1.4 million for a Renewable Heat initiative through ecoENERGY. This Solar Water Heating Program is a joint initiative led by Bullfrog Power Inc. together with Enbridge Gas Distribution and EnerWorks. It offers financial incentives and rebates to help Ontario homeowners living in Enbridge Gas Distribution franchise areas to install solar water heating systems. This renewable Heat initiative is one of a series of ecoENERGY initiatives funded by the Government of Canada with an investment of more than \$3.9 billion to increase Canada's supply of clean, renewable energy.

**7 May**

*Environment  
Federal government  
Energy Efficiency Act  
passes*

Amendments to the Energy Efficiency Act, an act that will solidify Canada's position as an international leader in energy-efficiency standards passes. With this legislation, Canada will have legislative authority to introduce comprehensive standards to regulate the amount of standby power consumed by many products when they are not in use. By regulating standby power, enough electricity will be saved to power more than 300,000 Canadian homes each year, reducing the average household's electricity consumption by three to five percent.

**11 May**

*Environment  
federal funding  
Wind power*

Rob Moore, Member of Parliament for Fundy Royal, on behalf of Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announces the investment of \$29 million for the Kent Hills Wind Farm, through the ecoENERGY for Renewable Power Program. The wind farm will provide approximately 290,000 MW hours of electricity per year from its 32 turbines. This electricity will be sold to New Brunswick Power to meet the needs of over 17,000 homes.

**12 May**

*Environment  
Federal government  
Kyoto Protocol  
Implementation Act  
Report*

Scott Vaughan, Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, says that the government's first two climate change plans under the Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act are missing some of the information required under the Act. The 2007 and 2008 climate change plans included targets for expected reductions in greenhouse gas emissions within the Kyoto Protocol period, 2008 to 2012. However, he found that Environment Canada will be unable to determine actual emission reductions for each of the measures planned, as the Act requires. The Kyoto Protocol Implementation Act was passed by Parliament in 2007. It requires the government to produce a plan each year showing how Canada will meet its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol by 2012, the end of the Kyoto Period. The Commissioner is required to assess and report on Canada's progress in meeting those obligations. For this first report he focused on whether the 2007 and 2008 climate change plans contain the information required under the Act. The audit found that expected reductions in greenhouse gas emissions presented in the climate change plans were overstated. For example, some emission reductions projected

to occur within the 2008–2012 Kyoto Period will probably not be realized before the Kyoto Period ends.

**14 May**

*Environment  
Quebec  
Cap and Trade System  
adopted*

Quebec became the second province to move toward adopting a cap and trade system. Quebec's bill will be adopted by the end of June .By the fall, the province will implement regulations that will require companies to register their levels of greenhouse-gas emissions. The registry will serve as the basis for the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) in determining how many carbon credits will be issued to the province. The credits will then be distributed to companies who meet the greenhouse-gas emission targets. The emission credits will be traded on the Montreal carbon exchange created last year. Polluting companies that fail to meet the emission caps will be fined according to the legislation adopted in Quebec as well as by the other members of the WCI. The first emission caps will be issued between 2012 and 2015, targeting only electricity-producing companies and major industries that emit more than 25,000 tonnes a year of greenhouse gases. After 2015, the second phase will target, among other sectors, transportation as well as home and commercial heating companies.

**14 May**

*Environment  
Energy Efficiency Act*

Bill S-3 (Energy Efficiency Act) giving regulatory powers to the Minister of Natural Resources in order to promote the efficient use of energy in the Canadian market place receives Royal Assent.

**14 May**

*Environment  
Bute Inlet  
Hydroelectric Project  
Assessment*

Canada's Environment Minister Jim Prentice announces that the proposed Bute Inlet Hydroelectric Project located about 150 km north of Powell River in British Columbia will undergo an environmental assessment by a federal review panel. The Minister's decision to review the river is due to a request from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. The federal terms of reference to establish the review panel and the federal-provincial guidelines for the preparation of the environmental impact statement are being issued. The documents were finalized following recent consultations with First Nations and the public.

**15 May**

*Environment  
federal funding  
British Columbia  
Solar Hot Water  
Heating Program*

Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, and Ron Cannan, Member of Parliament for Kelowna–Lake Country, announce the investment of \$400,000 in the Solar Hot Water Heating program through the ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat initiative. The Solar Hot Water Heating Program will provide a significant boost to the growing clean energy industry in British Columbia. It provides \$1,000 rebates to help new home developers in the Okanagan and the Kootenays install solar hot water heating systems, a \$300 rebate for existing homeowners to install a solar hot water heating system. Solar hot water heating systems are also eligible for the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes Grant and are eligible under the Home Renovation Tax Credit.

**19 May**

*Environment  
Federal Funding  
Clean Energy Fund*

Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announces the launch of the \$1 billion Clean Energy Fund during an address to the University of Alberta. This Fund invests \$850 million in technology development and demonstration. This includes \$650 million for large-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration projects and \$200 million for smaller-scale demonstration projects of renewable and alternative energy technologies. Minister Raitt also announces that there will be a \$150 million research component. This will fund initiatives ranging from basic research to pre-demonstration pilot projects of technologies ranging from next generation renewable and cleaner energy systems to new technologies to address environmental challenges in the oil sands such as water use and tailings.

**20 May**

*Environment  
Vehicle emission  
standards*

Environment Minister Jim Prentice confirms that Canada will match tough new United States vehicle emission standards now that President Barack Obama will force the auto industry to develop more fuel-efficient cars to deal with global warming. The U.S. standards would force cars and light trucks to average 35.5 miles to the gallon (6.62 litres/100 km) by 2016. The two systems are carefully calibrated so they match, Mr. Prentice said.

**20 May**

*Environment  
federal funding  
Biofuels*

Joe Preston, Member of Parliament for Elgin-Middlesex-London, on behalf of Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, with Jim Grey, CEO of the Integrated Grain Processors Cooperative's (IGPC) announce that the IGPC facility will receive up to \$84.76 million over seven years to support biofuels development. Compared to gasoline, grain-based ethanol can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 40 percent on a lifecycle basis. For biodiesel, the emissions reduction can be as much as 60 percent. Through the ecoENERGY for Biofuels program, the Government of Canada will invest up to \$1.5 billion over nine years to encourage the development of a strong, competitive renewable fuels industry in Canada.

**22 May**

*Environment  
Federal Funding  
Biofuels*

Dave Van Kesteren, Member of Parliament for Chatham-Kent-Essex, announces a federal repayable contribution of up to \$1.6 million to help Seaciff Energy Inc. construct a new facility to transform waste into clean energy and fertilizer. This investment will help Seaciff Energy Inc. build an anaerobic digestion facility to transform vegetable waste from local farms and greenhouses into electricity, heat and organic matter. The project is expected to create ten jobs during the construction stage as well as three full-time and one part-time permanent positions and generate \$2 million in annual company revenue by 2010.

**19 June**

*Environment  
federal funding*

Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture, and Gord Brown, Member of Parliament for Leeds–Grenville, on behalf of Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announce that GreenField Ethanol's Johnstown facility

*Biofuels*

will receive up to \$117.5 million over seven years through Natural Resources Canada's ecoENERGY for Biofuels program and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's ecoAgriculture Biofuels Capital. This program will generate both an increase in Canadian renewable fuels production capacity and an opportunity for farmers participate in this emerging market opportunity.

**9 July**

*Environment  
Global Carbon  
Capture and Storage  
Institute established*

The Government of Canada, Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Norway, China and 13 other nations establish the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute. The Institute will be a global centre of expertise to help accelerate the deployment of carbon capture and storage demonstration projects worldwide and to encourage developing countries to apply carbon capture and storage technology to energy production. More than 80 major companies and industry associations have also joined the Institute. The development and large-scale deployment of carbon capture and storage has been identified as a critical priority by leaders in the Major Economies Forum. The Government of Canada has invested \$240 million in one of the world's first full-scale commercial demonstrations of carbon capture and storage at Boundary Dam, a coal-fired electricity plant in Estevan, Saskatchewan. Canada is also a founding partner in the International Energy Agency Weyburn–Midale CO<sub>2</sub> Monitoring and Storage Project. This Saskatchewan project is one of the largest international CO<sub>2</sub> measuring, monitoring and verification projects in the world. In total, Canada's Economic Action Plan invests \$1 billion for clean energy research and demonstration projects, including \$650 million for large-scale carbon capture and storage projects. The Government is also investing \$140 million in the ecoENERGY Technology Initiative which supports industry-led efforts to advance carbon capture and storage technologies.

**21 July**

*Environment  
Canada, Ontario  
Joint funding  
Great Lakes Forestry  
Centre*

A new research centre in Sault Ste. Marie will be built to help improve Canada's environment while creating jobs and stimulating the economy. To be located at the federal government's Great Lakes Forestry Centre (GLFC), the new Invasive Species Centre will be dedicated to combating alien invasive species that threaten Canada's natural resources and ecosystems. The Government of Canada is contributing a total of \$13.4 million to the GLFC, consisting of \$9 million in funding over two years for the new Invasive Species Centre and \$4.4 million to modernize the GLFC facilities. The Government of Ontario has committed \$15 million to the Invasive Species Centre initiative.

**22 July**

*Environment  
West Cape Wind Farm  
federal funding*

Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, on behalf of Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources celebrates the official opening of Phase II of the West Cape Wind Farm. Minister Shea also announces that the Government of Canada, through the ecoENERGY for Renewable Power initiative, would provide up to \$24.3 million over the next 10 years to

ensure that electricity produced by the project is delivered to consumers at competitive prices. The expansion of the West Cape Wind Farm comprises a total of 44 new turbines, with a total capacity of more than 79 megawatts. These turbines will generate approximately 255 gigawatt hours of clean electricity a year — enough to meet the electricity needs of as many as 25,000 homes.

**24 July**

*Environment  
federal funding  
Quebec*

Senator Pierre Claude Nolin announces that, under Transport Canada's Freight Technology Demonstration Fund, the Montreal Port Authority will receive a contribution of up to \$500,000 towards a demonstration project involving a multiple-generator locomotive that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption. The project will take place in the marshalling yard at the port over a six-month period.

**29 July**

*Environment  
British Columbia  
Energy Plan*

The British Columbia Utilities Commission rejects the British Columbia government's energy plan and push for clean energy. The government's green energy plan has been a key initiative pursued by Premier Gordon Campbell and was a major issue in the May election. The ruling could call into question the viability of the B.C. government's policy of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33 percent below 2007 levels by 2020. That promise, and a long term goal of an 80 percent reduction by 2050, was put into law last year with passage of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act.

**31 July**

*Environment  
federal funding*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade, Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Member of Parliament for Okanagan - Coquihalla, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announces \$105,000 federal support for a bio-energy project with the City of Merritt and the Lower Nicola Indian Band (LNIB). The study will investigate the viability of producing wood pellets from forest and agricultural residue, municipal waste and mountain pine beetle infested fibre.

**6 August**

*Environment  
federal funding  
ecoEnergy*

Jay Hill, Government House Leader and Member of Parliament for Prince George–Peace River, on behalf of Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources announces that the Bear Mountain Wind Park will receive up to \$20.5 million over the next ten years through the ecoENERGY for Renewable Power program. The Bear Mountain Wind Park will have 34 turbines with a total capacity of 102 megawatts and will cover approximately 25 hectares of land on top of Bear Mountain. The electricity generated will be sold to BC Hydro.

**21 August**

*Environment  
federal funding*

Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announces that Hamilton's BIOX facility will receive up to \$72.4 million to support the production of biodiesel. The investment, provided through the ecoENERGY for

*ecoEnergy*

Biofuels program, works to help stabilize the Canadian renewable fuel industry.

**21 August**

*Environment  
Canada, Yukon  
Green Infrastructure*

The governments of Canada and Yukon are working together to support a green infrastructure project in the Yukon, including upgrades to the Mayo B hydro generation facility and further development of the Carmacks-Stewart transmission line. This project has been selected for funding under the new federal Green Infrastructure Fund. Twenty million dollars of diesel will be needed annually by 2012 to meet projected demand, releasing 50,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases. It is expected that the project will reduce forecast diesel generation in 2012 by over 40%. This will reduce greenhouse gases from energy production by 50% from current levels.

**24 August**

*Environment  
Federal Funding  
Grain-based ethanol*

On behalf of Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board announces that Husky Energy's Minnedosa plant will receive up to \$72.8 million to support the production of ethanol. Compared with gasoline, grain-based ethanol can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 40 percent on a life-cycle basis. For biodiesel, the emissions reduction can be as much as 60 percent.

**22 September**

*Environment  
Meeting*

Prime Minister Harper is one of 100 dinner guests invited by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to talk about the environment. This meeting is being held to find common ground before countries meet in Copenhagen in December to sign a new global climate change treaty.

**9 October**

*Environment  
Carbon Capture  
and Storage Fund*

Shell Canada says it is not certain that a planned \$1.35 billion carbon capture and storage project near Edmonton will ever go ahead. Alberta has created a \$2 billion carbon capture and storage fund, and Shell becomes the first energy company to receive money from it for its Quest pilot project, which is jointly owned by Shell Canada, Chevron Canada and Marathon Oil Sands. Graham Bojé, a Shell Canada vice-president, told reporters that before a "final investment decision" is made on the project, several steps need to be taken, including public consultation and further technical work. If the project goes ahead, it will probably be no earlier than 2015. Federal Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt said the project is a signal to the world that Canada takes environmental issues seriously. She acknowledged that while it is an "expensive mitigation device," governments and industry have "to start somewhere."

**13 October**

*Environment  
Ignatieff speech*

Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff makes a speech to the Vancouver Board of Trade, suggesting an approach to make Canada a global leader in clean energy. He emphasizes the importance of investing in new technologies and new industries, upgrading the energy infrastructure through a "smart" energy grid, and by making the federal government a model of

environmentally responsible behaviour. The environmental policy is based on pouring money into energy renewal, rather than on levying a carbon tax, which voters massively vetoed in the last election. He also pointed out that Canada should not wait for Washington to decide what to do.

**23 October**

*Environment  
Copenhagen Summit*

Environment Minister Jim Prentice announces that he is not hopeful for an international treaty at the global climate-change talks in Copenhagen. The Minister also announces that he does not want to punish high-growth provinces in Canada. Although Ottawa has not released a climate change plan, the Minister mentioned implementing a plan that would impose a cap on industrial emissions, but allow Alberta's energy-intensive, emissions-heavy oil sands to continue expanding.

**29 October**

*Environment  
Pembina Institute,  
David Suzuki  
Foundation  
Report*

A report by the Pembina Institute and David Suzuki Foundation finds that the Conservative government's goal of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020 is possible only if the growth in Alberta and Saskatchewan is limited. The Conservative government says it wants to wait for the results of the Copenhagen meeting and for the United States to finalize its climate-change policies before unveiling its own approach.

**9 November**

*Environment  
Oil sands*

Canada's oil sands companies say that they must adopt expensive carbon-capture-and-storage (CCS) technology to meet environmental challenges, but will require major government subsidies. Ottawa and Alberta have already announced \$1.4 billion in funding for CCS pilot projects involving a coal-fired power plant and an oil sands upgrader, which together would reduce emissions by one million tonnes. Environment Minister Jim Prentice has delayed the release of his plan, saying he wants to see what regulations are adopted in the United States.

**27 November**

*Environment  
Intergovernmental Plan  
National Climate  
Change Plan*

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach announces that provinces should band together behind an achievable national climate change plan, and is worried about Quebec's aggressive new strategy to cut greenhouse gases being “a headache” for Canada. Quebec, along with B.C. and Ontario, have advocated different approaches to reducing emissions. Jean Charest promised that by 2020, the province will slash greenhouse-gas emissions by 20 percent below 1990 levels. The goal is similar to the target that the European Union has adopted and much tougher than Canada's plan to cut emissions by 20 percent below 2006 levels by 2020. Mr. Stelmach said the EU can afford to chase more aggressive targets because many countries have been building up to this for years by taking such measures as phasing out energy-inefficient manufacturing plants. Stelmach argues that it is unfair for his province to slash its emissions when other province are still talking about what they plan to do and not actually doing anything substantial in their own jurisdictions, especially in the area of coal-fired electricity generation.



**1 December**

*Environment  
Mount Milligan  
Gold-Copper Project*

Jim Prentice, Canada's Environment Minister, announces that the proposed Mount Milligan Gold-Copper Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. The Minister has referred the project back to the responsible authorities, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Natural Resources Canada, for appropriate action.

**3 December**

*Environment  
Canada, China  
Agreement on Climate  
Change and Culture*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that Canada has signed two agreements with China that will result in greater cooperation on climate change and culture. The Prime Minister and Wen Jiabao, Premier of China, signed the two agreements in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Climate Change, Canada and China will work together on the long-term global effort to address climate change through mitigation and adaptation. It will strengthen Canada-China cooperation in areas such as energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, carbon capture and storage, methane recovery and utilization, and sustainable land management.

**7 December**

*Environment  
federal funding  
Solar Energy*

Senator Linda Frum, on behalf of Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announces an investment by the federal government of up to \$1 million in the First Power solar project through the ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat program. The Government of Canada's investment in the First Power project will support the installation of domestic solar water heating systems in up to 900 homes, with a focus on remote First Nations communities.

**17 December**

*Environment  
Convention  
Copenhagen*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper attends the Leaders' Session of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, Denmark, on December 17-18, 2009. The Canadian Government commits to reducing Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent from 2006 levels by 2020 and 60-70 percent by 2050.

**17 December**

*Environment  
federal funding  
Saskatchewan  
Grain-based ethanol*

With an investment of up to \$8.4 million by the Government of Canada, the Pound-Maker ethanol facility in Saskatchewan will receive financial support to sustain job creation and stimulate the local economy. Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, highlights how this investment will help strengthen the Canadian renewable fuel industry. Compared with gasoline, grain-based ethanol can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by up to 40 percent on a life-cycle basis. For biodiesel, the emissions reduction can be as much as 60 percent.

## FEDERAL POLITICS

### **1 January**

*Federal Politics*

*TFSA*

*Corporate tax cuts*

The corporate tax cuts and Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSA), both introduced by the Government of Canada in Budget 2008, come into effect.

### **6 January**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Canada foundation*

*for Innovation*

Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), announces the significant investments in the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) in the University of Manitoba. More than \$2 million dollars in funding have been allocated to the university labs and equipment, which will jump-start nine projects in areas of research. The CFI is an independent corporation created by the federal government to fund research infrastructure and is funded by the government of Canada.

### **8 January**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*British Columbia*

Tom Cannon, Member of Parliament for Kelowna – Lake Country, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announces a \$3 million federal government investment, through Western Economic Diversification Canada, towards Community Futures British Columbia. This initiative will bring rural economic diversity to British Columbia.

### **9 January**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Youth work experience*

Colin Mayes, Member of Parliament for Okanagan-Shuswap, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announces funding of \$31,555 towards the Sounds of Light Multicultural Society to support a new youth work experience program and affordable housing initiative. This Society will help deliver a work experience program for youth and people with disabilities who have demonstrated an interest in construction trades.

### **11 January**

*Federal Politics*

*New representative*

*in Kandahar*

Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, announces the appointment of Ken Lewis as the new Representative of Canada in Kandahar, succeeding Elissa Goldberg who has held the position since its creation in March 2008.

### **11 January**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Halifax*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, announces that up to \$393,300 will be provided to the Halifax Regional Municipality for three projects aimed at enhancing security for domestic ferries in Nova Scotia.

### **12 January**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Employment*

Cathy McLeod, Member of Parliament for Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo, announces that at least 420 people with disabilities in Kamloops and surrounding areas will be better prepared to find meaningful employment through the new project. Individuals will take part in orientation sessions and disability employment needs assessments as well as develop a career plan. The Government of Canada is providing \$762,212 to fund this project.

**12 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, announces the awarding of \$98,968 to Société Bleu Nordique for the acquisition of special equipment. This goes towards the start up of a berry processing plant in the Côte-Nord region.

**12 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Expert Panel*  
*on Securities*  
*Regulation*

Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, welcomes the release of the Final report of the Expert Panel on Securities Regulation that recommends the establishment of a federal securities regulator and single securities act for Canada.

**13 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Internet access*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development announces that the Réseau collectif de communications électroniques et d'outils de gestion Gaspésie-Ile-de-la-Madeleine has been awarded \$1,746,084 in non-repayable funding to extend high-speed internet access to 43 peninsula communities that have never had these services.

**14 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Drug Safety and*  
*Effectiveness Program*

Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health announces that the Government of Canada is continuing to support the Drug Safety and Effectiveness Network, first announced in July 2008. The results from the Drug Safety and Effectiveness Network are meant to help in decision-making and enhance overall consumer safety. The commitment of a further \$31 million over four years brings the total federal investment for this initiative to \$32 million over the first five years and \$10 million per year thereafter.

**14 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Privy Council Office*

Kevin Chan leaves his job as executive assistant to Kevin Lynch, the Clerk of the Privy Council (key advisor to Prime Minister Stephen Harper), to work for Michael Ignatieff. The Privy Council office has reportedly suggested a "cooling-off" period before Mr. Chan takes up his new responsibilities. Mr. Ignatieff says details of the deal are being worked out.

**15 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Pension*

The Canadian government announces it will not contribute money to make up for any shortfalls in pensions at the time of the bankruptcy, but will guarantee that pensioners receive at least their reduced pension levels as measured at the time of the insolvency.

**15 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*funding*

James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages announces \$50,000 in funding to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia to *federal* help it continue to meet professional storage standards. The funding is through the Cultural Spaces Canada Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

**19 January**  
*Federal Politics*

The Government of Canada announces a \$350 million capital investment in the Business Development Bank of Canada. The initiative is expected

*federal funding*

to help small and medium-sized businesses across Canada gain access to the financing they may need when credit markets are constrained.

**19 January**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*New Brunswick*

Helena Guergis, Minister of State, announces support for three projects that will benefit female victims of violence in six French speaking rural regions, low-income mothers in rural New Brunswick, and francophone women from ethnocultural minority communities in the Greater Moncton area. Three organizations (Support to Single Parents Inc.; Collectivite ingenieuse de la Peninsule acadienne Inc, and Collectif des femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick) will receive a total of \$799,243 in funding from the Women's Community Fund of the Women's Program of Status of Women Canada.

**20 January**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

Myert Corps Inc. will receive \$4.38 million under the Government of Canada's Employment Assistance Services program for two employment projects. The Community Employment Resource Centre project will help over 12,000 unemployed people obtain employment.

**20 January**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Saskatchewan*

Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology) announces a renewed investment in the National Research Council Canada (NRC) Sustainable Infrastructure Technology Initiative in Regina. Technology clusters are broad-based community partnerships among industry, universities, colleges, and all levels of government that focus on building a competitive advantage for Canada through research and innovation.

**22 January**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

Guy Lauzon, Member of Parliament for Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry, on behalf of Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announces that 20 communities will benefit from grants under the Ontario Potable Water Program.

**22 January**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

On behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, Russ Hieber, Member of Parliament for South Surrey, White Rock and Cloverdale, announces the Peach Arch Community Services Society will receive more than \$1.7 million for its Employment Resource Centre project under the Government of Canada's Employment Assistance Services program. Through this project, the Employment Resource Centre will help keep more than 2,400 unemployed people in the Surrey area find and keep jobs.

**23 January**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Airport safety*

Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture), announces funding under Round One of the federal government's 2009-2010 Airports Capital Assistance Program. This program finances more than \$7 million to enhance airport safety across Canada. The Government of Canada has invested a total of \$476 million for 571 projects at 165 airports relating to runways, taxiways, visual aids and heavy airside mobile equipment.

**23 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Aquaculture Industry*

Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada, on behalf of Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, announces \$1.1 million in funding for the southwest New Brunswick aquaculture industry through the Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Program.

**23 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Arts and Culture*

James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, LaVar Payne, Member of Parliament, announce funding for the Medicine Hat Folk Music Club, which will be used for the third annual Tongue on the Post Folk Festival in Medicine Hat. The funding will be paid for through the Arts and Heritage program, announced in September 2007, which provides Canadians \$6,400 in funding for local arts and culture.

**23 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Prince Edward Island*

Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, on behalf of Keith Ashfield, Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency), and Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resource and Skills Development, announce federal government contributions totalling more than \$1.5 to revitalize the Summerside Raceway in Prince Edward Island. The Atlantic Canada Industry Opportunities Agency, through its innovative Communities Fund, contributes \$1.1 million and Service Canada is providing \$485,000 for the demolition of the existing horse buildings and construction of the new stables and multi-use facility.

**23 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Science and Technology*

Greg Kerr, Member of Parliament for West Nova, on behalf of Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), welcomes the Canada Foundation for Innovation investment in Acadia University. More than \$147,000 in funding was allocated to the university for art labs and equipment for inorganic photo physics and biological sciences. The research facility will include a femtosecond laser, supposedly the world's fastest camera and most powerful microscope, designed to better understand how light interacts with molecules.

**23 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Homelessness Project*

Greg Rickford, Member of Parliament for Kenora, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces that the Government of Canada is contributing more than \$96,000 to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy who is helping to renovate and purchase equipment for the "Out of the Cold" shelter in Sioux lookout.

**23 January**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*ACOA*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway announces that the government is funding six projects in Nova Scotia under Round VI of Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's (ACOA) flagship Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF) with \$12.4 million. The AIF will also fund a variety of private and public sector sources, bringing the total value of the Nova Scotia projects to an estimated \$21.9 million.

**23 January**

*Federal Politics  
Canada Revenue Agency  
Project Trident*

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) launches a webpage dedicated to Project Trident, an awareness project that targets identity theft, charities-related fraud, and tax preparer fraud. There are currently over 70 cases that make up Project Trident and there have already been 13 convictions resulting in over \$1.8 million in fines and a total of 210 months of mandatory jail time.

**26 January**

*Federal Politics  
Speech from the  
Throne*

Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, delivers the Government's speech from the Throne. Her speech provides more details on the next step in the Harper Government's Economic Action Plan for Canada. For more details see:

<http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=2401>.

**29 January**

*Federal Politics  
Canada Consumer  
Product Safety Act*

The Government of Canada introduces proposed legislation that will modernize and strengthen product safety laws by overhauling existing rules to further protect the health and safety of Canadians. The proposed *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act* will provide better oversight of consumer products in Canada by improving the government's ability to take timely compliance and enforcement actions when unsafe products are identified.

**2 February**

*Federal Politics  
Home-Buyers  
Tax Credit*

Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister John Baird, Canada's Minister of Infrastructure, Transportation and Communities and Member of Parliament for Ottawa West - Nepean, announce a first-time home buyers' tax credit. This tax credit will provide up to \$750 in tax relief to first-time home buyers; and an increase in the amount that they can withdraw from an RRSP to purchase a home from \$20,000 to \$25,000.

**4 February**

*Federal Politics  
Federal support for  
Equal Voice*

Helena Guergis, Minister of State (Status of Women), announces that the federal government supports Equal Voice/À voix égales as it launches Experiences, a partnership project to attract girls and young women to the democratic process. The project will focus on increasing the democratic participation of girls across Canada by introducing them to role models and mentors, nurturing their political literacy, and inspiring them to become the political leaders of the future.

**6 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Airports Capital  
Assistance Program*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announces \$11,959,852 in funding for Airports Capital Assistance Program under Round Two of the 2009-2010 program. The Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) finances capital projects related to safety, such as the rehabilitation of runways, taxiways, visual aids and heavy airside mobile equipment. Since the inception of ACAP, the Government of Canada has invested a total of \$489 million for 598 projects at 167 airports.

**6 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Youth employment*

Steven Fletcher, Member of Parliament for Charleswood - St. James – Assiniboia and Minister of State (Democratic Reform) announces that at-risk youth in Manitoba will get valuable job-preparation training thanks to the Government of Canada's investment in several employment projects. These projects will receive over \$750,000 in total funding through the Federal Youth Employment Strategy Skills Link Program.

**6 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Youth employment*

Rona Ambrose, Minister of Labour and Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Spruce Grove, announces that post-secondary graduates in the Stony Plain area will gain valuable work experience in their chosen fields thanks to Government of Canada support for a local employment project. This project will receive over \$83,000 in funding through the federal Youth Employment Strategy Career Focus program.

**6 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Youth Resiliency*  
*Project*

Leon Benoit, Member of Parliament for Vegreville-Wainwright, on behalf of Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, announces the Youth Resiliency Project, supported by the Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund. The Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund provides financial support for health promotion and prevention projects at the national, provincial and local levels. It addresses a wide range of illicit drug use issues, especially among vulnerable populations, including youth. The Youth Resiliency Project, which serves 13 rural Albertan communities in the Vermilion River Region, will receive up to \$327,700 over the next three years.

**6 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Community projects*

The Harper Government allocates \$500 million over the next two years for eligible community projects such as local hockey rinks and swimming pools. This money will fund up to 50% of the total cost of each project, with the balance to be provided by other orders of government, community and the private sector.

**9 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Federal Funding*  
*Community projects*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, announces that the Regional County Municipality (RCM) of Domaine-du-Roy will receive \$8,871,420 in non-repayable funding from the Government of Canada for restorations to the Village historique de Val-Jalbert. This \$20 million financial contribution towards the three-year project has been awarded through Canada Economic Development's Community Economic Diversification Initiative – Vitality, a measure established to support communities experiencing slow economic growth.

**10 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Liberal Party*  
*lawsuit*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper abandons his \$3.5 million lawsuit against the Liberal Party over allegations that he knew of Conservative efforts to bribe Chuck Cadman, in 2005. Mr. Harper had sued the Liberal Party last March over statements that he knew of alleged attempts to bribe Mr.

Cadman with a \$1 million life insurance policy in return for a vote against the then Liberal government. In a joint statement, the Liberal Party and the Conservatives said the matter was dropped and that no other comments would be made. This move was in direct contradiction with Mr. Harper's past vows to take the matter to a total victory in front of a judge.

**10 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Canada Health  
Infoway*

Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, announces that the Government of Canada, through its Economic Action Plan, is continuing to support the creation of health information systems. Funding of \$500 million is in addition to \$400 million in support provided to Canada Health Infoway in Budget 2007. This brings the Government of Canada's total commitment to \$2.1 billion.

**11 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Education*

Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces that the Government of Canada will make additional student loan funding available to York University students due to the strike. There are about 13,000 York University students receiving Canada Student Loans and since their school year has been extended, the Government of Canada is expected to give out between \$6 million and \$7 million more in Canada Student Loans to help them finish out their school year.

**11 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Education*

The Government of Canada is making post-secondary education more affordable and accessible for students and families across Canada beginning in fall 2009. New grants of \$250 per month for students from low-income families and \$100 per month for students from middle-income families will reduce the amount of debt students will incur. The new Repayment Assistance Plan will ensure that debt is manageable, with the loan payments based on student income.

**13 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Youth Employment*

Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Saskatchewan announces that youth facing employment barriers are getting valuable job-preparation training thanks to the Government of Canada. Three Saskatchewan communities will benefit from four youth employment projects, two in Regina, one in Prince Albert, and one in Yorkton. These projects will receive over \$208,000 in total funding through the federal Youth Employment Strategy Skills Link program.

**13 February**

*Federal Politics  
Labour*

Rona Ambrose, Minister of Labour, announces that the government is launching consultations to modernize labour standards under Part III of the Canada Labour Code to ensure that they remain relevant and effective the 21st-century economy. The consultations will follow up on the report entitled Fairness at Work: Federal Labour Standards for the 21st Century, produced by the Federal Labour Standards Review Commission in 2006, and will act on the government's commitment to seek the views of business, unions and employees before deciding on a course of action.



**17 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Media*

James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announces the creation of the Canada Periodical Fund, a modern, streamlined program in support of Canadian magazines and community newspapers. This announcement builds on the Budget 2009 commitment to provide \$30 million over the next two years for Canadian periodicals.

**17 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Employment*

Senator Consiglio Di Nino announces on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development that at-risk youth in Scarborough will benefit from the Government's local employment project. The Shouters National Evangelical Spiritual Baptist Faith International Centre of Canada will receive \$198,951 in federal funding through the Government of Canada's Skills Link program.

**17 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Seniors Program*

Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and Marjory LeBreton, Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister of State (Seniors), announce the Government of Canada's support for more than 800 New Horizons for Seniors Program projects across the country. These projects will ensure that seniors have the opportunity to participate and take an active leadership role in their communities. Total funding for these projects under the Community Participation and Leadership component of the New Horizons for Seniors Program is more than \$15 million.

**18 February**

*Federal Politics  
Military purchase*

Minister of National Defence and Minister of the Atlantic Gateway, Peter MacKay announces the Canadian Forces will purchase 750 Visual Warning Technology systems and ancillaries from R. Nicholls Distributors Inc. of Longueuil, Quebec. The systems will be used in Afghanistan as a non-lethal alternative to warning shots when other warning measures, such as shouting, cultural signage or hand signals, fail to work.

**18 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
British Columbia  
Infrastructure*

Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, Stockwell Day, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Kevin Falcon and Minister of Community Development Kevin Krueger, announce an investment of over \$110 million for 41 infrastructure projects to help smaller communities throughout British Columbia meet their pressing infrastructure needs, to help stimulate the economy and to support their continued economic growth.

**19 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Child Development  
Centre*

Jay Hill, Government House Leader, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces the Government of Canada's support of the Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) to the Child Development Centre. This is part of a \$45 million, three-year commitment to expand opportunities for people with disabilities and

improve accessibility across Canada. The goal of the EAF is to promote vibrant communities that benefit from the participation of people with varying abilities in everyday life activities.

**20 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Seniors Program*

Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Member of Parliament for Haldimand–Norfolk, announces nearly \$25,000 in funding for the Haldimand Community Support Centre under the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program. The funding will help ensure that seniors have the opportunity to participate and take an active leadership role within their community.

**20 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Saskatchewan*  
*Drug prevention*

Ray Boughen, Member of Parliament for Palliser, Saskatchewan, on behalf of Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, announces the Government of Canada’s support for projects under the Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund that will help prevent drug use among Saskatchewan youth. Through the Building Assets in Youth project, the Moose Jaw YMCA will develop and promote targeted education activities and other prevention initiatives that help prevent drug use among young people. The Moose Jaw YMCA will receive up to \$323,500 in financial support for this project.

**20 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Seniors Program*

On behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, Marjory LeBreton, Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister of State (Seniors) announce almost \$16,000 in federal support for the Burlington Seniors’ Centre under the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program.

**23 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Seniors program*

Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and Marjory LeBreton Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister of State (Seniors), announce support for 16 projects across Canada under the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program to raise awareness of the abuse of seniors.

**23 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Ontario*

Christian Paradis, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, announces an investment of \$210,000 in the LaSalle Causeway Bascule Lift Bridge in Kingston, Ontario. The project involves the replacement of several steel girders and key structural elements over a two-month period, and will ensure that the bridge is able to serve the local community for many years to come.

**26 February**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Proposed amendments*  
*Criminal Code of*  
*Canada*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper calls for Parliament to ensure passage of the Act to Amend the Criminal Code after a series of gang related shootings in Vancouver. If passed by Parliament, this new legislation make accused murderers connected to organized crime activity automatically charged with first-degree murder. First-degree murder is

subject to a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment without eligibility for parole for 25 years. The new legislation will also create two new offences for assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and aggravated assault against a peace or public officer. Both would be punishable by a maximum penalty of 10 and 14 years.

**26 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Literacy Ontario*

Dean Del Mastro, Member of Parliament for Peterborough, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces government funding of \$311,925 for Literacy Ontario Central South's project Literacy and Essential Skills in Industrial Arts. Literacy Ontario will develop essential skills course material in industrial arts for use by instructors and participants in the program.

**26 February**

*Federal Politics  
Mid-shore  
Patrol vessels*

Christian Paradis, Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada and Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, announce that the Government of Canada has taken the next step towards procuring mid-shore patrol vessels on behalf of the Canadian Coast Guard. The government plans to procure up to twelve new mid-shore patrol vessels (MSPVs) to provide support for the Fisheries Conservation and Protection Program, as well as Maritime Security. Through industrial and regional benefits, this contract will boost the Canadian economy by providing for 100 percent of the contract in direct and indirect industrial and regional benefits. This means that the contractor will generate one dollar of economic activity in Canada for every dollar it receives from the contract.

**26 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Manitoba  
Drug prevention*

Merv Tweed, Member of Parliament for Brandon-Souris, Manitoba, on behalf of Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, announces that the Government of Canada is supporting projects under the Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund that will strengthen drug prevention among youth in Manitoba. The Brandon School Division will receive up to \$148,500 in financial support.

**27 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
British Columbia  
Official languages*

At a meeting with students from Simon Fraser University, James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announces that the Canada- British Columbia Auxiliary Agreement for the Development of Postsecondary Education in French at Simon Fraser University will be extended for an additional year. With this extension, the Government of Canada is committing to contribute up to an additional \$1.215 million to British Columbia's official-languages expenditures for 2008-2009.

**27 February**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
British Columbia  
Official languages*

Daryl Kramp, Member of Parliament for Prince Edward-Hastings, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces that the Government is investing in the development of the Community Meal Program in Deseronto, Ontario through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The HPS funding

of more than \$11,000 will also help with the hiring of a part-time project coordinator, and will allow for the purchase of equipment and supplies.

**27 February**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Ontario*

*Homelessness*

*Partnering Strategy*

Daryl Kramp, Member of Parliament for Prince Edward–Hastings, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces that the Government is investing in the purchase of a multi-passenger transit vehicle for the Central Hastings Support Network in Madoc, Ontario through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The HPS funding of \$50,868 will help buy a vehicle that will provide transportation for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, so that they can gain access to employment and other support services in Belleville, Ontario.

**6 March**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Immigrant Integration*

Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney announces that immigrants in Edmonton will have access to more language training, employment assistance and information to help them integrate into the community. These services will receive \$2.3 million in federal funding.

**13 March**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Seniors Program*

Laurie Hawn, Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre, highlights investments of \$194,250 in eight projects in Edmonton under the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program.

**17 March**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Universities*

Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism), on behalf of Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), announces an investment of \$23 million to fund 31 new or renewed Canada Research Chairs at eight universities in western Canada.

**18 March**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Canadian Youth*

*Business Foundation*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that young entrepreneurs who want to start businesses and create jobs will have better access to start-up loans and other business. This is part the Harper Government's Economic Action Plan. The Canadian Youth Business Foundation is a national charity providing start-up mentoring, financing and business resources to help young Canadians, aged 18-34, create their own successful businesses. The Canadian Youth Business Foundation has helped fund 2,800 entrepreneurial companies. As part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Harper Government will invest \$10 million in the CYBF to help them build on these successes.

**18 March**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Economic development*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway announces over \$81,000 in funding today to help Trenton, River John and Pictou Landing pursue opportunities in economic development. The Town of Trenton will receive funds to engage a professional engineer to review their main street revitalization proposal and provide engineering contact drawings. The River John Community Action Society will hire a consultant to identify the most viable opportunities for development of the

riverfront area within the village of River John. The Harbour Authority of Pictou Landing will develop a master plan for economic development in the area and to support their financial stability.

**18 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Seniors Program*

Minister LeBreton announces more than \$11 million in funding for more than 900 projects across Canada through the Capital Assistance component of the New Horizons for Seniors Program. These projects include: increasing the Age Credit by \$1,000 for 2009 and beyond to allow eligible seniors to receive up to an additional \$150 in annual tax savings; providing seniors with \$200 million in tax relief by reducing the required minimum withdrawal amount for 2008 from Registered Retirement Income Funds by 25 percent; providing \$400 million over two years through the Affordable Housing Initiative for the construction of housing units for low-income seniors; establishing an independent task force to make recommendations on a cohesive national strategy on financial literacy for Canadians.

**18 March**

*Federal Politics  
Atlantic Pilotage  
Authority Regulations  
Amendments*

The Government of Canada introduces a regulatory amendment intended to protect Atlantic waters and to improve navigation safety. Canada's Transport Minister, John Baird, announces the regulations amending the Atlantic Pilotage Authority Regulations, which will help protect the waters surrounding Saint John, New Brunswick, and Placentia Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador.

**20 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Nova Scotia  
Historic sites*

Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, announces the Government of Canada's intention to make major infrastructure improvements in national historic sites across Nova Scotia, and to the Cabot Trail in Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Projects that will be funded include investment in the Cabot Trail in Cape Breton Highlands National Park (\$14 million), Port Royal National Historic Site (\$700,000) and Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site (\$2 million).

**21 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Western Economic  
Diversification*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia Pacific Gateway, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announces federal support to assess economic opportunities and help build a stronger future for the Okanagan-Similkameen region. The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen will receive a Government of Canada investment of more than \$35,000 through Western Economic Diversification Canada under the Community Economic Diversification Initiative (CEDI), a component of the federal Mountain Pine Beetle Program.

**23 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding*

Dean Del Mastro, Member of Parliament for Peterborough, announces on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, that youth facing employment barriers in Toronto will

*Skills Link Program*

benefit from the Government's commitment to a local employment project. LOFT (Leap of Faith Together) Community Services will receive over \$270,000 in federal funding through the Government of Canada's Skills Link program for its Pre-Employment Project.

**23 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Adult Learning and  
Employment Programs*

Dean Del Mastro, Member of Parliament for Peterborough, announces, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, that the Government is supporting a project that will help workers with low levels of literacy. Under the project entitled 'Building Training Partnerships to Enhance Low-Skilled Workers' Participation in the Workforce, Pathway to Possibilities (PTP) Adult Learning and Employment Programs receives over \$455,000 to work with five communities across Canada to develop workforce literacy and essential skills programs for adults with low skills levels.

**23 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Education*

Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, Dr. Colin Carrie, Parliamentary Secretary, and New Brunswick Senator Percy Mockler announce that the Government of Canada will provide further support for Francophone students pursuing post-secondary educational opportunities in the health care field. The Government will provide \$4 million in federal support to help the Consortium strengthen its promotion and recruitment efforts, expand the scope of distance learning, strengthen clinical training for students through the purchase of new medical equipment, and strengthen continuous learning and teaching recruits.

**24 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Seniors Program*

Barry Devolin, Member of Parliament for Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes–Brock, announces federal support for the Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Elder Abuse Prevention Network under the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program. Mr. Devolin highlights over \$19,000 in funding for the Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Elder Abuse Prevention Network to help ensure that seniors have the opportunity to participate and take an active leadership role within their community.

**25 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Employment Insurance*

The federal government puts \$60 million more into Employment Insurance for Service Canada. The number of Canadians applying for the program jumped to 560,400 in January, up 22.8 percent from a record low a year ago. Ontario was particularly hit hard as the depressed manufacturing sector pushed unemployment up 81.6 percent in the city of Windsor.

**25 March**

*Federal Politics  
Stimulus bill  
passes*

The Harper government won approval to put \$3 billion in emergency stimulus into Canada's economy after Liberals backed off their demand for details on how the money will be spent. Provision for the special stimulus fund was included in a spending bill, which passed the House of Commons by a vote of 210-82 with the support of Conservative and

Liberal MPs. That motion passed with the support of NDP and Bloc Québécois MPs only moments before the vote on the spending bill. The Conservatives voted against the Liberals' non-binding motion and Treasury Board President Vic Toews made it clear that the government will not abide by it.

## **27 March**

*Federal Politics  
Criminal Code of  
Canada  
Proposed amendments*

Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, introduces legislation to clearly limit the amount of credit that the courts may grant to convicted criminals for the time they served in custody prior to their sentencing. The proposed *Criminal Code* amendments to this legislation will provide the courts with sentencing guidance and limits for granting “credit for time served”. The legislation will: make it the general rule that the amount of credit for time served be capped at a 1-to-1 ratio, i.e. give only one day of credit for each day an individual has spent in custody prior to sentencing, permit a credit to be given at a ratio of up to 1.5 to 1 only where the circumstances justify it; require courts to explain the circumstances that justified a higher ration; and, limit the pre-sentencing credit ratio to a maximum ratio of 1 to 1 for individuals detained because of their criminal record or because they violated bail, with no enhanced credit being granted under any circumstances.

## **27 March**

*Federal Politics  
Funding relief  
for pension plans*

Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, releases regulations to provide temporary solvency funding relief for federally regulated defined benefit pension plans. The measures cover plans for employees working in areas that fall under federal jurisdiction. These plans currently represent 7 percent of all private pension plans in Canada, accounting for approximately 12 percent of pension assets. In the Budget 2009, the Government announced that it would assist the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions.

## **27 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Skills Link Program*

Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board and Member of Parliament for Provencher, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development announces that rural youth in Steinbach will get help finding jobs thanks to the federal government’s investment in a local youth internship program. The Mennonite Heritage Village will receive over \$204,000 in federal funding through the Government of Canada’s Skills Link program for the organization’s Employment Preparation for Youth project.

## **30 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Quebec*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, announces the awarding of \$1,043,000 in non-repayable funding to Jardins de Normandin in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean for the installation of new infrastructure that will help strengthen the site’s tourism drawing power. The new infrastructure, which will include an illuminated water fountain system, will also serve to complement the entertainment and educational aspects of the tour experience. This project is part of a larger development

plan to improve the quality of the tourist site and draw a greater number of visitors, particularly from outside Quebec.

**30 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Seniors Program*

Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue, Minister of State (Agriculture) and Member of Parliament for Jonquière–Alma, announce federal support to improve the facilities and equipment of organizations under the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program. Minister Blackburn highlights \$43,567 in funding under the Capital Assistance component of the New Horizons for Seniors Program, which helps organizations that support seniors to replace outdated equipment or undertake needed renovations.

**31 March**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Arctic research*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, announces six more recipients of the \$85 million fund to upgrade key Arctic research facilities. All six are in Nunavut.

**6 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Universities*

Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), announces an investment of \$7.9 million to fund eight new or renewed Canada Research Chairs in four universities in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador. This includes \$321,880 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for research infrastructure.

**6 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Safety and Security*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, and Peter Van Loan, Minister of Public Safety, announce that the Government of Canada is investing \$2 million for 10 new research projects to advance Canada's capability to prevent and prepare for safety and security threats, whether caused by terrorist or criminal activity, accident, or natural disaster.

**6 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Student employment*

Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces increased funding of \$20 million for Canada Summer Jobs to help Canadian students acquire skills and work experience.

**6 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Economic growth*

Dick Harris, Member of Parliament for Cariboo - Prince George, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announces funding for the Cariboo region to stimulate and grow the local economy. The first investment of \$220,000 will support the Cariboo-Central Interior Poultry Producers Association to create a mobile poultry-processing unit that will help diversify the local economy and encourage growth in the poultry industry.

**7 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding*

James Flaherty, Minister of Finance, on behalf of Rob Nicholson, Member of Parliament for Niagara Falls, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, announces federal funding of \$103,140 to the National Anti-



*Anti-racism campaign*

Racism Council of Canada. The organization will undertake research on the feasibility of establishing a Youth Restorative Action Project in Ontario, using the same model as Alberta.

**7 April**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Ontario Justice*

*Education Network*

James Flaherty, Minister of Finance, on behalf of Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, announces federal funding for the Ontario Justice Education Network. Part of this funding will support the Ontario Justice Education Network in creating the "*Aboriginal Justice Education Project.*" And part will to provide justice education training sessions to staff and volunteers who work with disadvantaged youth.

**7 April**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

*Employment training*

On behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, Brian Jean, Member of Parliament for Fort McMurray–Athabasca, and Chris Warkentin, Member of Parliament for Peace River, announce \$300,000 in federal funding to help rural Albertans with disabilities prepare for jobs or become self-employed.

**7 April**

*Federal Politics*

*New auto industry*

*measures*

*Consumer confidence*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, and Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade, announce new measures to help boost consumer confidence in the auto industry. The Government of Canada has created the "Canadian Warranty Commitment Program" for new vehicles purchased from General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) and Chrysler Canada Inc., and added \$700 million to Export Development Canada's (EDC) Accounts Receivable Insurance (ARI) program available to auto parts suppliers. Under the Canadian Warranty Commitment Program, the federal government is committed to honouring consumer warranties on new vehicles purchased from GMCL or Chrysler Canada for a limited period while improved restructuring plans are put in place.

**7 April**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification announces that Canada's government is investing \$886,500 for industrial research and development and technology commercialization in the field of advanced manufacturing at Camosun College.

**8 April**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture), announces \$3.1 million in funding for seven new projects under the Charities Partnership and Outreach Program of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

**8 April**

*Federal Politics*

*federal funding*

Nova Scotia Premier Rodney MacDonald and Senator Fred Dickson announce \$13,399,800 to improve the water and wastewater systems for residents of Amherst, Springhill, Oxford and Maccan. The projects will create local jobs and enhance local facilities and services, at a time when the need for economic stimulus is greatest.

**8 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Employment training*

Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre-North, announces on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development that twenty Calgary residents with disabilities will receive personalized counselling and assistance to help them prepare for jobs thanks to Government of Canada support for a local employment project.

**14 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Nova Scotia  
Employment training*

Greg Kerr, Member of Parliament for West Nova, announces that unemployed workers facing barriers to employment on Nova Scotia's South Shore will benefit from the Government of Canada's commitment to a local employment project. The Government of Canada's Employment Assistance Services program gives the Digby Area Learning Association \$938,244 for its Career Resource Centre and Employment Counselling project. This project will help 1,050 unemployed individuals develop the skills, knowledge and experience they need to find and maintain employment.

**14 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding*

Keith Ashfield, Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency), Carolyn Bertram, Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour, and Joanne Reid, Mayor of the Town of Souris, announce close to \$1 million in funding for Souris water and sewer improvements.

**14 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Northwest Territories,  
Yukon*

Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, announces an investment up to \$5 million towards major improvements to visitor infrastructure in national parks and national historic sites of Canada in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

**15 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
New Brunswick*

Tilly O'Neill-Gordon, Member of Parliament for Miramichi, on behalf of Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, announces the Government of Canada's intention to make major improvements to visitor infrastructure in New Brunswick's National Historic Sites and Kouchibouguac National Park. The Government of Canada will invest over \$2.1 million towards major improvements to visitor infrastructure in New Brunswick.

**17 April**

*Federal Politics  
Immigration  
New act*

Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney announces that Canada's new citizenship law takes effect. The law gives citizenship to many who lost it or did not have it due to outdated provisions in past legislation. It also protects the value of Canadian citizenship for the future by limiting citizenship by descent. The changes implemented today mean that certain people who became Canadian citizens on or after January 1, 1947, when the first citizenship act took effect, and who then lost citizenship, will have their status restored back to the date they lost it.

**17 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Canada Winter Games*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, announces funding of \$2 million toward the coordination and hosting of the 2011 Canada Winter Games in Halifax.

**20 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
SSHRC*

The Government of Canada announces \$136 million in funding to further the development of talent and knowledge among Canada's top scholars in the social sciences and humanities. Through grants and fellowships administered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), these investments will support more than 2,500 of Canada's best researchers.

**21 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Homelessness  
Partnering Strategy*

Inky Mark, Member of Parliament for Dauphin–Swan River–Marquette, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces that Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding will be used to support data analysis and information sharing on homelessness in Swan River. With this new federal investment of over \$44,000, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Parkland Region will provide community coordination, training, technical support and data analysis for the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) in Swan River.

**24 April**

*Federal Politics  
Small vessels  
safety regulations*

Canada's Transport Minister, John Baird, introduces new Small Vessel Regulations to better regulate the safety of small vessels and improve public safety. The proposed regulations include new requirements to enhance current safety equipment, vessel construction some operational requirements for pleasure craft and small commercial vessels and renewable pleasure craft licences in order to improve the accuracy of licence information for search and rescue purposes.

**24 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Skills Link Project*

Lee Richardson, Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development announces that Calgary area youth will benefit from the Government of Canada's support for a local employment project. The YWCA of Calgary will receive \$461,244 in federal Skills Link funding to support the Vermilion/YWCA Skills Training Centre project, which will help 48 young Canadians facing employment barriers prepare for and find meaningful employment.

**24 April**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, announces that the Municipality of L'Anse-Saint-Jean, Quebec will receive \$1,190,094 in joint government funding under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) for new water and sewer infrastructure to serve a residential complex near Mont Édouard.

**24 April**

*Federal Politics*

Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, announces the appointment of Lyall D. Knott, a senior partner of Vancouver-based law

*IJC Commissioner  
appointment*

firm Clark Wilson LLP, to the International Joint Commission (IJC) as a Canadian commissioner.

**1 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Seniors Program*

Ben Lobb, Member of Parliament for Huron–Bruce, announces federal support of \$84,500 to improve the facilities and equipment of five seniors organizations under the Government of Canada’s Capital Assistance component New Horizons for Seniors Program.

**1 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Seniors Program*

Mike Allen, Member of Parliament for Tobique–Mactaquac, announces \$96,555 in federal support to improve the facilities and equipment of nine seniors programs.

**4 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Employment Training*

Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and Mark Parent, Minister of Labour and Workforce Development for Nova Scotia, sign an agreement that will provide \$50 million in new federal funding for employment and training initiatives to support Nova Scotians, regardless of whether they qualify for Employment Insurance. The new funding is in addition to \$191 million already invested by the Government of Canada in employment and training programming in Nova Scotia over the next two years.

**4 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Nova Scotia*

Greg Kerr, Member of Parliament for West Nova, announces that local workers and businesses will benefit from a major new investment in small craft harbours throughout Western Nova Scotia. The Small Craft Harbours program has recently received a boost in funding from Canada’s Economic Action Plan. Through this program, communities throughout Canada will receive \$200 million over two years to accelerate harbour repair and maintenance, and to undertake dredging projects. This new investment is in addition to regular program funding of approximately \$80 million for the Small Craft Harbours Program this year.

**6 May**

*Federal Politics  
Science and Innovation  
Report*

A study by the Science, Technology, and Innovation Council, commissioned by the federal government, has given Canada a mediocre grade for its performance in science and innovation. The report, crafted by a high-profile council that includes four current or former university leaders, a college president, award-winning researchers, and a bank chairman, offers an evaluation of the country's progress in science and technology. It finds that in some areas, such as high-school test scores, Canada outperforms most other nations, but in others such as industry's investment in research or the ability of leading researchers to gain international recognition, it concludes that the country is lagging.

**6 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Alberta*

Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, announces that the Wecan Cooperative for Community and Economic Development will receive \$346,142 in federal Skills Link funding to support its Together Wecan project, which will help 24 youth facing employment barriers

*Employment training*      prepare for and find meaningful employment through community service.

**8 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Forestry*

Josée Verner, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister for Francophonie, announces more than \$2.2 million in funding over the next two years, to modernize the Laurentian Forestry Centre Laboratory. In Budget 2009, Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government committed to an accelerated investment program to provide \$250 million over the next two years to modernize federal laboratories.

**11 May**

*Federal Politics  
Federal Funding  
CFIA*

Brad Trost, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Humboldt, announces more than \$4.9 million in funding, over the next two years, to modernize the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) Saskatoon Laboratory. The funding is part of a \$250 million commitment to upgrade laboratories across the country.

**11 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding*

Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Member of Parliament for New Brunswick Southwest, announces more than \$1.3 million in funding over the next two years to modernize the St. Andrews Biological Station.

**12 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Infrastructure*

Rob Merrifield, Minister of State (Transport), announces that the Government of Canada will provide \$7.1 million in new funding for the Grade Crossing Improvement Program (GCIP) this year. In addition, the Economic Action Plan provides \$28 million over the next five years to further enhance grade crossings. Rail safety in Canada will additionally benefit from the Government of Canada's 2009 Economic Action Plan, which is accelerating and expanding recent historic federal investment in infrastructure with almost \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over two years. This includes \$28 million over five years to enhance the GCIP, which will help save lives by improving safety at public grade crossings across Canada.

**13 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Employment*

Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre-North, announces on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development that the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) will receive \$118,546 under the Enhanced Employment Assistance Services component of the Opportunities Fund for the CNIB Bridge to Employment Program. This project will help 45 people with vision loss in the Calgary area find and maintain meaningful employment.

**13 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Seniors program*

Ron Cannan, Member of Parliament for Kelowna-Lake Country, announces federal support of \$68,911 to improve the facilities and equipment of four organizations under the Capital Assistance component of the New Horizons for Seniors Program.

**14 May**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Ontario*  
*Community Adjustment*  
*Fund*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announces the launch of the Community Adjustment Fund in Ontario, an economic diversification program part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. In Ontario, the Community Adjustment Fund will provide \$348.9 million over two years to support adjustment measures in communities affected by the global economic downturn. In 2009–10, this funding for Ontario will total up to \$174.2 million.

**14 May**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Bill C-9*

Bill C-9 (Transportation of Dangerous Goods) ensuring the safety and security of Canadians whenever dangerous goods are imported, handled or transported in Canada, while also maintaining trade and market access to further economic prosperity, receives Royal Assent.

**19 May**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Business Credit*  
*Availability Program*

Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, and Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announce the opening of the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) website. The BCAP website features a description of the program, explains the roles of Export Development Canada (EDC), the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and private sector institutions, and provides contact information. Working in co-operation with the private sector, EDC and BDC will provide at least \$5 billion in additional loans and other forms of credit support and enhancement at market rates to businesses with viable business models whose access to financing would otherwise be restricted.

**19 May**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Canadian Forces*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, announces improvements to the funding of long term disability insurance for members of Canadian Forces. The Government of Canada will provide \$356 million over the next four years to cover the full cost of insuring Regular Force members against service-related injuries and illnesses and to cover the government share of a premium increase for non-service related injuries.

**19 May**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Alberta*  
*Tourism*

James Rajotte, Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Leduc, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announces \$822,000 in funding to the Canadian Petroleum Discovery Centre to develop its tourism marketing program and expand its industry training capacity. The investment will enable the Leduc/Devon Oilfield Historical Society to enhance the profile of the Canadian Petroleum Discovery Centre as a destination for tourism and training and to increase its efforts to attract more visitors, as well as new industry clients to undertake training at the Centre.

**19 May**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Fisheries and*

Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, on behalf of Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), announces funding for research that will keep the Canadian fisheries and aquaculture industries competitive and sustainable. The \$8.8 million funding is part of a new

*Aquaculture*

five-year initiative, led by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), to support industry-driven research and development in fisheries and aquaculture.

**21 May**

*Federal Funding  
federal funding  
Calgary  
WORKshift*

Rob Merrifield, Minister of State (Transport), announces that the Government of Canada will partner with the City of Calgary, Calgary Economic Development and the Calgary Regional Partnership to support a new telework initiative, "WORKshift – Think Outside the Office." WORKshift will receive a contribution of up to \$800,000 under Transport Canada's ecoMOBILITY program. The initiative will develop a plan that supports telework programs throughout the Greater Calgary area by raising public awareness of the benefits of teleworking, and providing businesses with specific guidance and support in planning, designing and implementing telework programs.

**21 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Saskatoon  
Employment*

Kelly Block, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon–Rosetown–Biggar, announces on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, that Regional Employment Development will receive \$459,972 in federal Skills Link funding to support its What Works! Project, which will help 42 youth in Saskatoon prepare for and find meaningful employment.

**22 May**

*Federal Politics  
New credit card  
rules*

New credit card rules come into effect. The new measures are designed to provide cardholders with clearer information about the cost of their plastic. Card issuers will have to tell customers in advance about interest rate increases and they will have to spell out how long it will take a cardholder to clear off a balance by making only minimum monthly payments. One measure that will cost the banks a substantial amount of money - "tens of millions of dollars," according to Finance Minister Jim Flaherty - is an enforced 21-day grace period on new purchases. That means banks will not be able to charge interest on recent purchases, even if the cardholder has a balance carried over from a previous month.

**22 May**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Quebec*

Acting on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Deputy Minister of Quebec and *Ministre des Affaires municipales et des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire*, Lucie Charlebois, Member of the National Assembly for Soulanges and Assistant Government Whip, joins Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, in announcing that the Village of Pointe-des-Cascades will receive an additional \$250,000 in joint government funding, up from \$715,854 to \$965,854, under the Canada-Quebec Infrastructure Works Program. This money will be used mainly to install a drinking water production well along with various upgrades to the water reservoir and filtration plant.

**26 May**

*Federal Politics*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announces a \$3.1 million repayable investment in research and development to be undertaken by TransCore

*federal funding*  
*TransCore Link*  
*Logistics*

Link Logistics Inc. for the satellite-based tracking of goods and monitoring of products. Through this project totalling \$10.4 million, TransCore will evolve GPS-related, wireless and data transfer technologies for its GlobalWave system, which tracks and monitors goods and vehicles travelling through global supply chains in order to improve shipping security, fleet management and performance. This project will create and/or maintain an average of 20 high-quality jobs in the Ottawa suburb of Kanata for each year.

**29 May**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Employment*

On behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Stephen Woodworth, Member of Parliament for Kitchener Centre, announces that Ray of Hope Inc. will receive \$240,486 in Skills Link funding to support its Youth Employment Skills at Morning Glory Cafés program. This project will help 16 youth develop life and employment skills that will help them prepare for and find meaningful employment or return to school.

**3 June**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development) takes part in the announcement of a \$12-million non-repayable contribution from the Government of Canada to the National Optics Institute (INO). This sum, paid under Canada Economic Development's *Business and Regional Growth* program, will enable INO to implement its in-house research program and commercialize its research and development work worldwide.

**4 June**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Quebec*  
*Aerospace*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development), announces that the Quebec Aerospace Association (AQA) will receive \$737,684 in non-repayable funding through the *Business and Regional Growth* program to continue working to strengthen the province's aerospace enterprises. Quebec's aerospace sector employs more than 42,000 people.

**8 June**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Colleges and*  
*Universities*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announces a Knowledge Infrastructure Program investment of \$1.24 million in Tyndale University College & Seminary. This investment is part of the federal government's two-year, \$2 billion plan to repair and expand research and educational facilities at Canadian colleges and universities. The program is helping to provide economic stimulus and promote employment by creating jobs for engineers, architects, tradespeople and technicians. It is also helping to generate the advanced technological infrastructure needed to keep Canada's colleges and universities at the forefront of scientific advancement.

**12 June**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Expanded Voting*

Steven Fletcher, Minister of State (Democratic Reform), introduces legislation in the House of Commons to give Canadians more chances to vote during federal elections. The *Expanded Voting Opportunities Act*



*Opportunities Act*

gives two new advance polling days to the campaign period, on the Sunday eight days before election day and on the Sunday immediately before election day. More importantly, all 65,000 regular polls will be open on the Sunday before election day. This will maximize the opportunity for Canadians to vote at polls in their own neighbourhoods.

**13 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
British Columbia*

Senator Nancy Greene Raine, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification), announces federal support for a land development project in Princeton, British Columbia, to stimulate and grow the local economy. The Town of Princeton will transform 20 lots on industrial land to function as a fully serviced business park. Federal funding of \$450,000 is being provided by Western Economic Diversification Canada under the Community Economic Diversification Initiative (CEDI), a component of the federal Mountain Pine Beetle Program.

**15 June**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Huntsville  
G8 Summit*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry and Member of Parliament for Parry Sound-Muskoka, announces more than \$2 million in federal funding for beautification projects and infrastructure upgrades in Port Severn and South River. The funding will come from the G8 legacy infrastructure fund, which was set up to benefit civic projects in the Parry Sound-Muskoka area in advance of the Huntsville G8 Summit taking place in June 2010.

**16 June**

*Federal Politics  
Economic Action  
Plan update*

Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, highlights the multitude of measures taken by the Government under the Economic Action Plan that are reducing the tax burden on individuals and businesses across Canada. Measures introduced by this Government since 2006 will provide \$220 billion in relief to individuals, families and business over 2008-2009 and the following five fiscal years. Of this amount, tax relief proposed in the Economic Action Plan totals more than \$20 billion.

**June 16**

*Federal Politics  
Transportation of  
Dangerous Goods Act*

Canada's Transport Minister, John Baird, announces that Bill C-9, an Act to amend the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992, has received royal assent and comes into force today. Should a safety or security incident involving dangerous goods occur, the government now has the legislative authority to enable quick and effective responses by industry through pre-approved Emergency Response Assistance Plans. The amended Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992 remains focused on preventing incidents when dangerous goods are imported, handled, offered for transport and transported. Transport Canada will consult with the public, industry, first responders, and provincial and territorial governments, as it develops regulations to support its new authorities under the Act.

**17 June**

*Federal Politics*  
*Employment Insurance*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff strike an employment insurance deal: first, a “leader’s mandated working group of 6 people – three chosen by Conservatives, three by Liberals” to look at issues around employment insurance reform. Second, another report card on the infrastructure stimulus spending in the fall, much earlier than the third report card will be tabled. This would allow the Liberals a possible trigger, if they and the other opposition parties choose to pull it, to defeat the government in the fall.

**21 June**

*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Quebec*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development), announces that the Fondation communautaire Gaspésie-Les Îles has been awarded \$700,000 in non-repayable funding over two years through the Community Diversification program to pursue its efforts to promote entrepreneurship and business succession in the region. Dedicated to improving quality of life in Gaspésie and Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the Fondation has made it its mission to curb the exodus of youth from the region, encourage those who have left to return and attract new young residents to the area.

**23 June**

*Federal Politics*

Bill number C-7 to amend the Marine Liability Act and the Federal Courts Act receives Royal Assent.

**24 June**

*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*

On behalf of Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Gary Lunn, Minister of State for Sport and Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands, announces over \$2.8 million in funding, over the next two years, to undertake needed repairs, maintenance work and infrastructure upgrades at the Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney. The funding is part of a \$250 million commitment in Canada’s Economic Action Plan designed to accelerate investment over the next two years to modernize federal facilities across the country.

**25 June**

*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*University of Victoria*

Andrew Saxton, Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification) announces \$620,000 in federal support for the University of Victoria’s Genome British Columbia Proteomics Centre to enhance its research, analytical and training services. Funding will help the University of Victoria purchase and install specialized imaging equipment at the Proteomics Centre. The equipment offers stronger research and training opportunities for researchers, academics and industry. Funding will also support a new business development and marketing focus for the Centre, designed to increase its local and international reach.

**2 July**

*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Naval Engineering*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, and Christian Paradis, Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, announce the awarding of a contract to Weir Canada Inc. for the operation of the Naval Engineering Test

*Test Establishment*

Establishment (NETE), headquartered in Montreal. PWGSC worked closely with Department of National Defence (DND) on a competitive procurement for this contract, valued at \$600 million for 15 years. If all options for renewal are exercised, 200 jobs will be maintained in Canada, especially in Halifax, Ottawa, Victoria and LaSalle, Quebec.

## **2 July**

*Federal Politics  
Canada, Haiti  
Debt forgiven*

Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, announces that the Government of Canada will forgive \$2.3 million in debt the Republic of Haiti owes Canada through the Canadian Debt Initiative. With this relief, Canada has now cancelled \$965 million worth of debt owed by the world's poorest and most heavily indebted countries, including all of the eligible debt owed by Latin American and Caribbean nations.

## **3 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Tourisme Outaouais*

Acting on behalf of Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister responsible for the Outaouais region and Member of Parliament for Pontiac, announces the awarding of \$2.1 million in non-repayable funding to *Tourisme Outaouais* for the deployment of a commercialization strategy on Canadian and foreign markets from 2009 to 2012. The Outaouais tourism industry provides jobs to about 10,000 people and tourism seems to be a promising growth sector.

## **3 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Nova Scotia  
Bilingualism*

On behalf of James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, and Member of Parliament (Central Nova), announces \$55,000 in funding for the Société acadienne Sainte-Croix. Funding will help the Société carry out its mission to strengthen the cultural and linguistic vitality of the Acadian community of the Pomquet area ensure that the Acadian and Francophone communities are informed of emerging issues and have opportunities to participate in activities related to French language and culture on the provincial level.

## **7 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Mont Tremblant*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development), announces that *Aéroport international de Mont-Tremblant Inc.* will receive \$2,701,200 in non-repayable funding under the Community Diversification Program for various airport infrastructure improvements. This project will result in an overall investment of \$4,436,000 and the creation of nine jobs.

## **7 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Advanced Research  
Technologies*

Christian Paradis, Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, announces that Advanced Research Technologies Inc. (ART) has been given \$500,000 in repayable funding through Canada Economic Development's *Business and Regional Growth* program (Export Support), to implement a plan to commercialize its innovative products in the United States and other markets.

**8 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development), announces a \$3.9 million in non-repayable funding through the Community Economic Diversification Initiative for Le Quebec Maritime Inc. to implement its *2009-2012 Outside Quebec and International Marketing Plan*.

**8 July**

*International Relations  
Canada, Italy  
federal funding*

Canada contributes \$5 million to build a youth centre in L'Aquila, Italy host city of G8 summit for world leaders, and site of a devastating earthquake in April. More than 300 individuals lost their lives in the quake, which hit the area on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**8 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Canada businesses*

Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture and Agri-Food), meets with Mr. Gordon Hadaller, President of Stern Laboratories, and personally delivers more than \$1.9 million in scientific research and experimental development investment tax credits earned by the company. This program is a federal tax incentive program administered by the Canada Revenue Agency that encourages Canadian businesses of all sizes, and in all sectors, to conduct research and development in Canada. The program gives claimants cash refunds and/or tax credits for their expenditures on eligible work done in Canada.

**8 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
British Columbia*

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Gail Shea announces that six businesses in British Columbia will receive more than \$930,000 in federal funding to help entrepreneurs involved in B.C.'s aquaculture innovate their operations boost their productivity and improve their economic performance.

**9 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
British Columbia  
Bilingualism*

On behalf of James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, John Duncan, Member of Parliament to Vancouver Island North, announces \$110,068 in funding for the Association francophone de Campbell River and the Association francophone de la Vallée de Comox. This funding will be used to support programming that meets the needs of the region's Francophones and Francophiles.

**14 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Ontario*

Keith Ashfield, Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency) announces a \$5.9 million investment in a number of initiatives to assist the Town of Grand Falls, Windsor. These investments will help attract industries and commercial businesses to the Exploits Valley region.

**21 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Marquee Tourism  
Events Program*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announces the Government of Canada's investment of more than \$290,000 to support the Calgary Folk Music Festival. The Government of Canada, through the Marquee Tourism Events Program, is investing \$100 million over two years to assist marquee events across the country.

**23 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
New Brunswick  
Bilingualism*

On behalf of James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Rob Moore, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Member of Parliament Fundy Royal, announces \$141,000 in government funding for Canadian Parents in New Brunswick. The funding aims to foster the development of Canada's minority Anglophone and Francophone communities and enable them to participate fully in all aspects of Canadian life.

**24 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Newfoundland and  
Labrador*

Senator Fabian Manning announces on behalf of Keith Ashfield, Minister of State for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) that the Town of Paradise in Newfoundland and Labrador will upgrade its wellness complex with the support of \$564,000. The town will also provide \$507,967 to support the project.

**27 July**

*Federal Politics  
Ericsson purchase  
of Nortel*

Ericsson purchases of Nortel Networks Corporation's wireless assets for \$1.13 billion U.S. Two courts overseeing the bankruptcy filing of Nortel Networks Corporation have approved the sale of the company's wireless assets to Ericsson. However, Nortel pensioners are lobbying Ottawa to pass an emergency amendment to the federal Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act to give them status ahead of other unsecured creditors in Canada. Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan and Reearch in Motion (RIM) insist Ottawa should block the deal that allows key Canadian technology to slip into foreign hands. Ericsson said it followed all the rules to acquire the assets, including those involving a key next-generation wireless technology that RIM and the Ontario government argue are vital and should stay in Canada.

**28 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway announces an investment of approximately \$482,000 for projects at Red Bay improving the town's cruise ship docking area, and along the Labrador Coastal Drive involving highway pull-offs.

**29 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Bilingualism*

James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announces \$20,000 in government funding under the Development of Official Languages Communities Program for the Association francophone de Kamloops.

**29 July**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Skills Link Program*

Ron Cannan, Member of Parliament for Kelowna–Lake Country, announces that local youth who face barriers to employment will get job-preparation training and work experience through the Government of Canada's support for a local employment project. This project will receive \$473,382 in federal Skills Link funding to support its Esteem Program, which will help 80 youth facing employment barriers develop life and job skills to ease their transition to work or return to school.

**4 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Ontario*

Dave Van Kesteren, Member of Parliament for Chatham-Kent-Essex, announces a grant of \$3,545,871 for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent under the Ontario Potable Water Program (OPWP). The program provides financial support to promote local economic development in municipalities that have experienced increased costs for their Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Program (COIP) drinking water projects to comply with changes to Ontario drinking water regulations.

**5 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Post-secondary  
Education*

Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces two new student financial assistance measures: the Canada Student Grants Program and the Repayment Assistance Plan. The Government of Canada is investing \$350 million in post-secondary education through the new Canada Student Grants Program, being offered under the Canada Student Loans Program.

**6 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
British Columbia*

John Duncan, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Island North, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announces federal funding of \$826,375 to the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Society and the Strathcona Wilderness Institute Society. The funding, provided by Western Economic Diversification Canada under the Economic Action Plan, will help both societies strengthen economic opportunities in the Courtenay area.

**6 August**

*Federal Politics  
Federal Funding  
Ontario*

Peter Braid, Member of Parliament for Kitchener-Waterloo, on behalf of Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), announces a contribution of \$1 million to Sandvine Incorporated from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP). The funding will assist Sandvine to develop high-tech Internet-technology solutions for global markets.

**7 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Newfoundland and  
Labrador  
Employment*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and Susan Sullivan, Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment for Newfoundland and Labrador announce that the Fortune Community and Youth Centre will receive \$312,207 under the Government of Canada's Employment Assistance Services program. This funding will help the Centre deliver employment-related services to 2,000 unemployed persons, helping them prepare for, obtain and maintain employment.

**10 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Canadian Forces*

The Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, Peter MacKay, and the Minister of Industry, Tony Clement announce that a contract valued at approximately \$1.2 billion has been awarded to the Boeing Company for the purchase of 15 Chinook helicopters for the Canadian Forces. In addition to purchasing 15 helicopters, this project will involve a 20-years in-service support and maintenance contract valued at approximately \$2.2 billion, with an option to extend the contract to the life

expectancy of the aircraft. This acquisition contract is expected to generate benefits for local economies and will provide approximately 5,500 jobs and an opportunity for up to 15,000 indirect jobs for Canadians across the country.

**11 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
British Columbia*

Jay Hill, Member of Parliament for Prince George - Peace River and Leader of the Government, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification), along with Bruce Sutherland, Chair of Northern Development Initiative Trust, announce funding of \$10 million for 23 projects in communities across Northern British Columbia through the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF).

**12 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Alberta*

On behalf of Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, Devinder Shory, Member of Parliament for Calgary Northeast, announces the Government of Canada's investment of more than \$240,000 to support Calgary's GlobalFest as part of the Marquee Tourism Events Program.

**12 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
"Own the Podium"*

Gary Lunn, Minister of State (Sport), announces an investment of nearly \$52 million to 43 summer national sport organizations for 2009-2010 through the Government of Canada's Sport Support Program. As part of this investment in Canada's summer sports, close to half of these funds will be directed to the summer sport Own the Podium initiative. This funding will help support sports and athletes with potential for podium results at the next Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games.

**12 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Quebec*

Laurent Lessard, Quebec's Ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire, and Jacques Gourde, Member of Parliament for Lotbinière-Chutes-de-la-Chaudière, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada and to the Minister of National Revenue, acting on behalf of the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Economic Development), announce that the Municipality of Saint-Janvier-de-Joly will receive \$340,440 in joint government financial assistance under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) for the extension of its domestic sewer system. This extension work along Village Road, will directly benefit 14 properties, or 40 residents within the municipality's urban perimeter. The municipality will also carry out additional improvements including the installation of a sewer main, a pumping station and a force main.

**13 August**

*Federal Politics  
Federal Economic  
Development Agency*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper launches the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, to be headquartered in Kitchener, with a budget of \$1 billion over five years. Minister of State for Science and Technology, Gary Goodyear will be responsible for the Agency and will embark on a tour of the region in the coming weeks.

**13 August**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*New Brunswick*

Keith Ashfield, Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency), on behalf of Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), announces a \$500,000 contribution to Marwood Ltd. from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP). This contribution will support the New Brunswick-based company, through one of its operating divisions, Cape Cod Finished Wood Siding Inc., in researching, developing, and commercializing superior paint coatings to provide increased long-term performance to wood siding.

**16 August**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Nova Scotia*

Peter McKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, announces that the Government of Canada is investing \$4.6 million in Nova Scotia infrastructure projects under Canada's Economic Action Plan.

**17 August**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*

Rick Casson, Member of Parliament for Lethbridge, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification), announces \$372,764 in federal funding for renovations to the North County Recreation Complex the project will create jobs in Picture Butte.

**17 August**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Canada National Exhibition*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announces the Government of Canada's investment of \$3.75 million over two years to support the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) as part of the Marquee Tourism Events Program. Funding will allow the CNE to bring world-class soccer teams from Portugal and Scotland to Toronto during the event; add marquee names to existing entertainment programming; present an international speaker series; increase its marketing efforts in Canada and the United States; and initiate a two-year project to introduce on-the-ground transportation for visitors, which will be completed in time for the 2010 CNE.

**17 August**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Alberta*

Devinder Shory, Member of Parliament for Calgary Northeast, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification), announces federal funding for a 10-kilometre pathway through the East Calgary Greenway. The project represents an exciting new chapter in the further expansion of an accessible and innovative pathway system for the residents of Calgary. Funding of \$1 million is provided under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

**17 August**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*New Brunswick*

Rob Moore, Member of Parliament for Fundy Royal, on behalf of Keith Ashfield, Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency) and Wally Stiles, Minister of Natural Resources, announce \$500,000 for the improvements to the Petitcodiac arena in New Brunswick. The project includes replacing the concrete floor and the refrigeration system, installing new piping, as well as adding new boards in the Petitcodiac arena.



**17 August**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*New Brunswick*

Keith Ashfield, Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency) and Roland Haché, Education Minister and Member of Legislative Assembly for Nigadoo-Chaleur, announce a commitment to invest more than \$370,000 towards renovations to the Sportplexe Richelieu, in New Brunswick. The project will enable the Village of Nigadoo to repair a leaking roof and replace damaged insulation in the Sportplexe Richelieu. The improvements will also help reduce energy costs.

**18 August**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Quebec*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development), joins David Whissell, Ministre du Travail and Ministre responsable de la région des Laurentides, acting on behalf of Laurent Lessard, Ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire, in announcing that the Municipality of Saint-Paul will receive \$360,000 in combined government financial assistance under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) to carry out water collection and treatment work. The financial assistance will enable the municipality to bring its drinking water production infrastructure up to standard, improve the quality of the drinking water it distributes and conduct more effective monitoring.

**17 August**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*British Columbia*

Dick Harris, Member of Parliament for Cariboo – Prince George, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification), announces federal support for six projects in the Cariboo – Chilcotin region. The six projects range from a study of biomass energy opportunities to the development of tourism marketing strategies and economic development plans. While different in scope, these projects all have one common goal – to strengthen, diversify and ensure the long-term resilience of the local economy, and to ensure that individuals and families are able to thrive in the region. Total federal funding of \$800,040 is being provided by Western Economic Diversification under the Community Economic Diversification Initiative (CEDI), a component of the federal Mountain Pine Beetle Program.

**18 August**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Manitoba*

Kerri Irvin-Ross, Manitoba Minister of Healthy Living, Joy Smith, Member of Parliament for Kildonan-St. Paul, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification), and Winnipeg Councillor Harry Lazarenko announce \$60,420 in funding from the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) for the Gwen Sector Creative Living Centre in Winnipeg.

**18 August**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*New Brunswick*

Greg Thompson, Minister of Veteran's Affairs and Member of Parliament for New Brunswick Southwest, on behalf of Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, announces that over \$20.6 million in funding is being provided for small craft harbours projects in Southwest New Brunswick.

**20 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Cancer Research*

Greg Rickford, Member of Parliament for Kenora, on behalf of Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), announces a contribution to Genesis Genomics Inc. from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP). The funding supports an innovative research and development project that will assist Genesis Genomics in early cancer detection. This \$1,950,000 contribution will support the Thunder Bay-based company in a two-year project to identify diagnostic genetic cancer markers using mitochondrial DNA-based biomarkers.

**20 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Satellite  
Communication*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announces a \$8.7 million repayable investment in support of a next-generation mobile satellite communications research and development project undertaken by EMS Technologies Canada Ltd. (EMS SATCOM). Through this project, EMS SATCOM will develop new products and applications for its satellite communications business. The technology developed will augment current product lines and result in new products that will benefit a variety of users, such as national security forces and commercial travellers, who will profit from improved in-flight communications.

**24 August**

*Federal Politics  
Saguenay, Quebec  
Cultural Capital*

James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Agriculture) and Member of Parliament (Jonquière-Alma), and Jean Tremblay, Mayor of Saguenay, announce that the municipality of Saguenay, Quebec, has been designated as a Cultural Capital of Canada for 2010. The Cultural Capital of Canada designation is awarded for merit, as determined by the quality of a proposed project and earlier achievements by the candidate community demonstrating an ongoing commitment to the arts and culture. As a municipality with a population greater than 125 000, Saguenay may receive up to \$2 million.

**25 August**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Quebec*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development), announces the awarding of \$2,288,190 in total non-repayable contributions to two Bas-Saint-Laurent organizations, \$722,400 of it to the Centre interdisciplinaire de développement en cartographie des océans (CIDCO) and \$1,565,790 to the Centre de recherche sur les biotechnologies marines (CRBM) for the pursuit of their respective activities. Awarded through the Business and Regional Growth program, this assistance will result in the creation of one new job at CIDCO and the maintenance of 35 others at CRBM and enable both organizations to continue stimulating the growth of their partner enterprises. This government funding will generate an overall investment of \$9,243,000.

**25 August**

*Federal Politics  
RCMP*

Peter Van Loan, Minister of Public Safety and Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice along with Daniel Petit, Member of Parliament for Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of

*Synthetic Drug Initiative*

Justice, and Raf Souccar, RCMP Deputy Commissioner of Federal Policing, announce the official launch of the RCMP's Synthetic Drug Initiative. The Synthetic Drug Initiative, the first Canadian drug strategy to specifically focus on a single class of drugs, is an RCMP-led program designed to eliminate the production and distribution of illegal synthetic drugs in Canada, and reduce the overall influence of organized crime on drug trafficking in Canada.

**25 August**  
*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Prince Edward Island  
Official Languages*

James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announces funding for 14 organizations in Prince Edward Island for various initiatives promoting both of Canada's official languages in the province. The Government of Canada has provided \$110,000 in funding to Canadian Parents for French under the Promotion of Linguistic Duality component of the Enhancement of Official Languages Program.

**26 August**  
*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Career training*

A partnership between the Government of Canada and the Canadian Steel Trade and Employment Congress (CSTEC) will result in 46 post-secondary school graduates gaining career-oriented job experience, announces David Sweet, Member of Parliament for Ancaster–Dundas–Flamborough–Westdale, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development. Through a federal investment of \$588,689, CSTEC's Career Focus Project will help recent post-secondary graduates develop their skills in the areas of process engineering, information technology, metallurgy, environmental science, automation, mechanical engineering and production. Employers participating in the program will contribute \$1.4 million in wages.

**1 September**  
*Federal Politics  
Federal Economic  
Development Agency  
for Southern Ontario  
Funding*

Gary Goodyear, Minister of State, (the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev)) announces that FedDev Ontario will provide \$50 million to the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC). This will include \$35 million in capital to place direct investments in early-stage firms in Southern Ontario and \$15 million to invest in Ontario-based venture capital funds focused on Ontario-based opportunities.

**1 September**  
*Federal Politics  
Inter-American  
Developmental Bank  
Meeting in Calgary*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that Calgary will host the 2011 meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank. The Inter-American Development Bank lends money for regional development projects in the Western Hemisphere. During the 2009 Summit of the Americas, the Prime Minister announced that Canada would provide temporary additional support to the Bank so that it could increase its lending capacity and provide additional assistance to developing countries struggling with the global recession.

**2 September**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
British Columbia*

The Government of Canada awards a contract for \$47.3 million to Stuart Olson Constructors Inc. of Richmond, British Columbia, for *Phase IV* of the modernization of the Fleet Maintenance Facility (Cape Breton) at the Esquimalt Dockyard. This construction contract will generate approximately 255 direct employment opportunities throughout the course of the work.

**2 September**

*Provincial Politics  
Alberta  
China Investment*

PetroChina Co. Ltd., a state-owned Chinese enterprise, announces \$1.9 billion in investment in the oil sands of Alberta.

**3 September**

*Federal Politics  
International Reserves*

The Department of Finance announces that Canada's official international reserves increased by an amount equivalent to \$8521.77 million (CAD) during August to \$55,966.59 million (CAD).

**4 September**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Education  
Official languages*

James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, and Diane McGifford, Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy for Manitoba and Chair of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), announce the renewal of the Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction. The federal government will invest more than \$1 billion over a four-year period in the provinces' and territories' delivery of minority-language education and second-language instruction (English in Quebec and French in the other provinces and territories).

**8 September**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
British Columbia  
Employment*

Cathy McLeod, Member of Parliament for Kamloops – Thompson – Cariboo announces an investment of more than \$14 million through the Community Adjustment Fund and the Job Opportunities Program that will help organizations and groups throughout British Columbia create immediate employment and help workers in all industry sectors and communities impacted by the economic downturn.

**9 September**

*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Strategic Aerospace  
and Defense Initiative*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, today confirmed \$200 million in funding for the Strategic Aerospace and Defence Initiative (SADI) and announced repayable investments in two Canadian aerospace and defence companies through the SADI program.

**10 September**

*Federal Politics  
Export Development  
Canada  
Business volume*

Export Development Canada (EDC) announces its business volume in the first half of this year reached \$38.2 billion, an increase of \$2.5 billion over the same period in 2008.

**15 September**

*Federal Politics*

Claude Béchar, Quebec's *Ministre de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation, Ministre responsable des Affaires intergouvernementales*

*federal funding  
Quebec  
Municipal Rural  
Infrastructure fund*

*canadiennes et de la Réforme des institutions démocratiques*, acting on behalf of Laurent Lessard, *Ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire*, joins Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development), in announcing that Saint-Eusèbe Parish will receive \$3,455,064 in government funding under the *Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund* (MRIF). The government funding will be used for the construction of a sewage treatment plant and a pumping station. The project also involves the installation of interception mains and a domestic sewer system under Principale and de l'Église Streets and under des Beaux-Lieux Road as well as various complementary work. Together, these upgrades will directly benefit 170 local residents.

**15 September**  
*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
British Columbia  
Recreational  
Infrastructure Canada,  
Community Adjustment  
Fund*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia Pacific Gateway, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announces \$4 million in federal funding for projects that will create jobs for British Columbians. Nine communities across British Columbia will benefit from the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program and Community Adjustment Fund (CAF), two major job-creating investments from Canada's Economic Action Plan.

**16 September**  
*Federal Politics  
NDP support*

Thomas Mulcair, NDP deputy leader, announces that his party will support the Conservatives government over the coming weeks if the government fulfills its \$1 billion promise to expand employment insurance benefits for workers who lose their jobs.

**21 September**  
*Federal Politics  
Assisting to Shelter  
Act*

Housing Minister Rich Coleman confirms that he is planning to move ahead with the legislation (Assisting to Shelter Act) that would give authorities the power to make homeless people stay in shelters or even jail during extreme cold- or wet-weather periods. An internal Ministry memo discusses problems with the proposed Assisting to Shelter Act, mentioning that requiring people to go to a shelter against their will may make the legislation vulnerable to a Charter challenge.

**25 September**  
*Federal Politics  
Democratic Reform*

Democratic Reform Minister Steven Fletcher is in the advanced stages of preparing legislation that would reshape the House of Commons. The new seats would most likely be in the suburban and exurban ridings that ring Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton. Alberta could be awarded up to six seats and British Columbia up to seven, taking the current Parliament from 308 members to around 340.

**29 September**  
*Federal Politics  
Ignatieff visit  
in Quebec*

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff attends a Montreal party fundraiser despite the resignation of Quebec lieutenant, Denis Coderre. Denis Coderre controls the Liberals in the province. He repeated that he will not name a new Quebec lieutenant but rely instead on party officials already in place. Several Liberals said former provincial cabinet minister Jean-Marc Fournier is among them.

**2 October**

*Federal Politics*  
*Parental benefits*

The Federal government will introduce new rules that extend parental benefits to the swelling ranks of self-employed Canadians, many of whom have complained they cannot afford to have children and run businesses at the same time. Sources say the government's second piece of employment insurance legislation will be introduced before Parliament's Christmas break. The bill would have a direct impact on more than 2.7 million people.

**7 October**

*Federal Politics*  
*Unsolicited email*  
*ban*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government proposes to ban unsolicited emails. Bill C-27 contains exceptions which would raise fines to almost 1 million dollars. Bill C-27 would allow companies to send marketing e-mails to Canadians who have recently had business dealings with them, or those who have given express consent to receive such mailings. But groups from insurers to bankers to financial advisers say this is not enough. Some retailers are asking for far more leeway on the length of time they would be allowed to e-mail customers after selling something to them. Ottawa is proposing in Bill C-27, that past customers be deemed to have given "implied consent" to receiving e-mails from the vendor for 18 months after the transaction.

**9 October**

*Federal Politics*  
*Banking*

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty decides to stop banks from selling or even promoting insurance on their websites. The Finance Department says it is trying to replicate the laws that govern banks on the ground. The Bank Act prohibits banks from marketing insurance in their branches, but allows them to own separate insurance companies and offices. This will block the banks' aims to push further into the insurance business. Flaherty notified the banks of his decision in a letter faxed to each of the chief executives ahead of his announcement.

**9 October**

*Federal Politics*  
*RCMP*  
*New tasers guidelines*

RCMP officers have been told to aim tasers away from the chest of people they want to restrain. This suggestion came after Taser International raised new concerns about tasers causing cardiac arrest. The new "taser targeting guide" is already in effect and to be sure that everyone understands the new procedure, Mounties will undergo a new round of training.

**15 October**

*Federal Politics*  
*Party logo*  
*Mishap*

Nova Scotia Member of Parliament Gerald Keddy was photographed holding a Conservative Party logo cheque to give government funding – a clear violation of the Federal Identity Program. This photograph prompted the Prime Minister's Office to issue a warning against Keddy's actions.

**16 October**

*Federal Politics*

The government doubles the budget for prison construction and maintenance as it prepares federal institutions for an influx of inmates

*Correctional Services*

resulting from its suit of new crime laws. Mr. Van Loan, who is responsible for the Correctional Service of Canada, confirms the possibility of using the farm land for prisons in a written response tabled recently in the House of Commons. The Minister's response also revealed the annual budget for "corrections infrastructure" has grown from \$88.5 million in 2006-07 to \$195.1 million this year. It is projected to peak at \$211.6 million in fiscal year 2010-11.

**18 October**

*Federal Politics  
Refugee claims*

Seventy-six boat migrants who came to Vancouver illegally, will appear at detention hearings. The men, believed to be from Sri Lanka, were detained after Mounties seized ship in Juan de Fuca Strait expected to seek refugee status within days. Under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, people detained by border officials have the right to a hearing within 48 hours.

**20 October**

*Federal Politics  
Refugee claims*

Canada's Immigration Minister, Jason Kenney, takes a hard line with seventy six men believed to be from Sri Lanka who came to Canada's West Coast on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The government has said it believes many refugee claims are false and has promised tougher legislation.

**20 October**

*Federal Politics  
Changes to the  
Tax Free Savings  
Account*

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is cracking down on abuse of Tax Free Savings Account by making some changes. The changes seek to stamp out schemes that saw investors make deliberate overcontributions or unapproved investments because the tax-free gains exceeded the penalties. Canadians who exceed limit on TFSAs will lose 100% of their over-contribution.

**22 October**

*Federal Politics  
By-election*

Tory Member of Parliament, Greg Rickford, wins the riding of Kenora – an area with 22 native communities. Rickford promises to renovate or expand community centres and arenas in the native communities. Grand Chief Stan Beardy of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, a regional organization representing 49 First Nation communities across Northern Ontario, says hockey rinks may not be the most pressing need in these communities, but they will take what they can get.

**28 October**

*Federal Politics  
Liberal Party  
New Chief of Staff*

Peter Donolo, Chrétien's former communications director, will become Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff's new chief of staff. Ignatieff decides to change his top aide due to criticism that the team that helped him get into politics did not have the experience to guide the party to an election victory.

**29 October**

*Federal Politics  
Corrections and*

Bill C-43, an Act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and the Criminal Code receives a Second Reading in the House of Commons. This Act introduces legislation that would amend the Criminal

*Conditional Release Act* Code to repeal the “fait hope” clause. This means that criminals who commit first or second degree murder will no longer be able to apply for early parole.

**29 October**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Telecommunications*

Bill C-47, an Act regulating telecommunication facilities to support investigations is referred to Committee after a Second Reading in the House of Commons. The *Technical Assistance for Law Enforcement in the 21st Century Act* will require service providers to include interception capability in their networks. Requirements to obtain court orders to intercept communications will not be changed by this Act, which will require service providers to supply basic subscriber information to law enforcement agencies and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service on request.

**29 October**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Criminal Code of Canada*  
*Amendments*

Bill C-46, an Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Competition Act and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, is referred to Committee after a Second Reading in the House of Commons. The *Investigative Powers for the 21st Century (IP21C) Act* will ensure that law enforcement officials have the tools they need to fight crime in today's modern environment by updating certain existing offences as well as creating new investigative powers to effectively deal with crime in today's computer and telecommunications environment.

**4 November**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Immigration*  
*Auditor General Report*

In her report, Auditor-General Sheila Fraser exposes problems with Canada's immigration system. Her main criticism is directed at the foreign worker program, which brings low-skilled workers into Canada. Immigration Minister Jason Kenney notes that the program plays an important economic role. He says his department established new rules to protect foreign workers. The report notes that Ottawa does not impose any minimum standards on workers selected by the provinces, and calls for these programs to be reviewed.

**5 November**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Long gun registry*

The House of Commons votes to abolish the long-gun registry (Bill C-391). The bill passes because enough opposition MPs broke from their party and voted for the bill. The bill will now go to a Commons committee for review and potential amendment.

**6 November**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Judicial Inquiry*  
*Salmon stocks*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decides to hold a judicial inquiry into the collapse of sockeye salmon stocks in British Columbia. The public inquiry will be mandated to report back to the government on or before May 1, 2011.

**10 November**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Immigration*  
*Citizenship guide*

Jason Kenney, Citizenship and Immigration Minister, unveils a new citizenship guide, “Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship,” that puts greater emphasis on military history.



**1 December**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*British Columbia*

Jay Hill, Member of Parliament for Prince George–Peace River, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announces federal funding for facility upgrades that will create jobs for the community of Kitimat. The Snow Valley Nordic Ski Club is undertaking facility improvements in preparation for hosting the 2010 BC Winter Games.

**1 December**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Immigration*

Jason Kenney, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister says that the Government of Canada is expediting the processing of more than 400 applications in an effort to help victims of Typhoon Ketsana reunite with close family members who are Canadian citizens and permanent residents. In September, Typhoon Ketsana hit the Philippines capital of Manila and other areas in the northern Philippines, resulting in the worst flooding in more than 40 years.

**1 December**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Federal funding*  
*Quebec*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, awards \$300,000 in repayable funding to the firm *Béton préfabriqué du Québec*. This assistance will enable the startup to acquire the equipment it needs to launch its operations in Baie-Comeau. Requiring an overall investment of \$3.5 million, this project will result in the creation of 20 direct jobs in Quebec.

**2 December**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*Quebec*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, announces the awarding of \$3,205,212 to the *Conseil des Montagnais du Lac-Saint-Jean* through the *Community Diversification* program for the construction of a complex on the banks of Lac Saint-Jean showcasing Inuit culture and ancestral traditions. The new complex will include an arts pavilion, a stage, a period general store, a rest area for cyclists travelling the *Véloroute des Bleuets* and various other recreational tourism facilities to allow visitors the opportunity to learn more about how the Inuit lived in the early 1900s.

**4 December**  
*Federal Politics*  
*federal funding*  
*British Columbia*  
*Employment training*

Gary Lunn, Minister of State (Sport) and Member of Parliament for Saanich–Gulf Islands, announces on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development that adults in British Columbia will benefit from two federally funded projects that will help them improve their literacy and essential skills so they can get jobs. The Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training will receive \$693,824 for its Essential Skills Online project. The Association will work in partnership with the Vancouver Island University's Centre for Continuing Studies to develop an online literacy and essential skills training tool that is based on an existing product, *Your Money Matters*.

**4 December**  
*Federal Politics*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, announces the awarding of \$1,340,000 in repayable funding to *Village*

*federal funding*

*Vacances Monts-Valin* granted through the *Community Adjustment Fund* provided for under *Canada's Economic Action Plan*. This assistance will enable the enterprise to build and outfit the first eight cabins of what will eventually become a 25-unit lodging complex in Monts-Valin.

**7 December**

*Federal Politics*  
*Federal Finding*  
*Quebec*

Bernard Généreux, Member of Parliament for Montmagny–L'Islet–Kamouraska–Rivière-du-Loup, speaking on behalf of Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, and Claude Béchar, Member of the National Assembly for Kamouraska–Témiscouata, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, speaking on behalf of Laurent Lessard, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy, announce that the municipality of Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies is to receive \$10,677,270 in joint funding under the Communities component of the Building Canada Fund–Quebec, for drinking water supply, installation of waterworks and sanitary and storm sewer systems, and construction of a wastewater treatment system.

**11 December**

*Federal Politics*  
*Fall session ends*

The Canadian Government ends the fall session of the House of Commons. Minister Baird, Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development; Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada; and Christian Paradis, Minister of Public Works and Government Services highlight the accomplishments of 2009. They announce that the Action Plan has been committed and the Working Income Tax Benefit has increased the supplement earnings of low-income workers. The Government is also helping to make communities safer from violent criminals and predators by introducing important legislation that will protect children from online predators and protecting all Canadians from white-collar crime. They also mention that Canada has strengthened its leadership role and asserted Canadian values on the world stage by opening up new opportunities for Canadian businesses in emerging markets, such as India and China.

**12 December**

*Federal Politics*  
*Immigration*  
*Live-in Caregivers*

Jason Kenney, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister, announces proposed regulations to better protect the rights of live-in caregivers - to make it easier for them and their families to obtain permanent residency in Canada. The announcement follows extensive consultations with caregiver groups from across the country, as well as heartfelt testimony before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration. The first proposed change to the live-in Caregiver Program eliminates the requirement for live-in caregivers to undergo a second medical examination when applying to become permanent residents.

**13 December**

*Federal Politics*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, announces the federal government's support for site work

*federal funding  
Nova Scotia*

required for to the design and construction of a proposed Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre and trail network. Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre at Debert, Nova Scotia, will be reforested with the help of a Government of Canada investment totaling more than \$400,000. Federal funding provided through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency includes \$150,000 from the Agency's Innovative Communities Fund and \$237,588 in support from the Communities Adjustment Fund, a key economic stimulus initiative under the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

**13 December**  
*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Atlantic Canada  
Opportunity Agency*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, confirms the contribution to the Town of Truro, to assist in renovations to the Colchester Legion Stadium. The Colchester Legion Stadium and the Town of Truro will receive more than \$855,000 in funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency (ACOA)'s Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program under Canada's Economic Action Plan.

**14 December**  
*Federal Politics  
federal funding  
Alberta*

Brian Jean, Member of Parliament for Fort McMurray–Athabasca and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announce Economic Action Plan funding that will strengthen economic opportunities in the counties of Athabasca and Lac La Biche. With the help of an investment of more than \$3.5 million under the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF), Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) will implement the Dwarf Mistletoe Remediation project. Project activities will consist of mapping and harvesting 1,600 hectares of forest stands infected with dwarf mistletoe, a parasite that can damage and kill infected trees and make them more susceptible to mountain pine beetle infestation.

**16 December**  
*Federal Politics  
Employment Insurance  
Amendments  
Self-employment*

Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announces that Bill C-56, the *Fairness for the Self-Employed Act*, has received Royal Assent. The legislation extends Employment Insurance (EI) special benefits, which are maternity, parental, sickness and compassionate care benefits, to the self-employed on a voluntary basis. Self-employed Canadians who choose to take advantage of EI special benefits will be required to opt into the program at least one year prior to claiming benefits, and will be responsible for making premium payments for the tax year in which they apply to the program. They will be able to voluntarily opt into the EI program effective January 31, 2010, and as a transitional measure those who register on or before April 1, 2010, will be able to collect benefits as early as January 1, 2011. Special benefits provided to self-employed individuals will mirror those currently available to salaried employees under the EI program. Self-employed residents of Quebec will continue to receive maternity and parental benefits through

the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan provided by the Government of Quebec. In addition, they will now be eligible to take advantage of sickness and compassionate care benefits offered by the Government of Canada through the EI program.

**21 December**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Labour arbitration*  
*CN and Teamsters*

Rona Ambrose, Minister of Labour, appoints Mr. Andrew Sims as arbitrator in the negotiations between Canadian National Railway (CN) and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference.

**21 December**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Canadian Forces*  
*Investigation*  
*Afghan detainees*

The Canadian Forces National Investigation Service (CFNIS), the investigative arm of the Canadian Forces Military Police, investigates all allegations of Afghan detainee mistreatment while in Canadian Forces (CF) custody. All of the completed investigations to date have determined that allegations of mistreatment of Afghan detainees by Canadian Forces (CF) members were unfounded and that CF members acted appropriately when interacting with the detainees.

**22 December**  
*Federal Politics*  
*Credit Card*  
*New Regulations*

New regulations on credit cards and other financial products, such as fixed- and variable-rate loans and lines of credit, will come into force on January 1, 2010. This means a number of important changes, particularly better communication of information, for consumers of financial products and services offered by federally regulated financial institutions.

**25 December**  
*Federal Politics*  
*PetroChina approval*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, approves the application by PetroChina under the *Investment Canada Act* to acquire control of the MacKay and Dover Oil Sands projects on a proposed purchase of properties owned by Athabasca Oil Sands Corporation (AOSC).

## **HEALTH**

**20 January**  
*Health*  
*Listeriosis outbreak*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that Sheila Weatherill, former President and Chief Executive Officer of Capital Health in Edmonton, will be appointed as an Independent Investigator into the August 2008 listeriosis outbreak related to certain processes meat products from Maple Leaf Foods.

**6 March**  
*Health*  
*federal funding*

Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, announces federal support to help recruit and retain nurses in Canada. The projects will focus on: mentoring and new training programs; providing critical care and emergency nursing education programs; improving patient nursing care; enhanced training for nurses new to caring for the elderly, and placement and orientation requirements for new graduates.

**12 March**

*Health  
MedEffect Canada  
launch*

The Government of Canada has launched a new social marketing campaign encouraging Canadian consumers to use MedEffect Canada to report suspected side effects from health products and to access the latest safety information. MedEffect Canada allows health professionals and consumers to easily complete and file reports on adverse reactions via web, phone, fax or mail. The website also provides the most recent and reliable health product safety information.

**26 April**

*Health  
H1N1*

Following confirmation of the first cases of human swine influenza (H1N1) in Canada, Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq and Chief Public Health Officer Dr. David Butler-Jones assures Canadians that the federal government is working closely with the provinces, territories and international partners to protect the health and safety of Canadians.

**27 April**

*Health  
H1N1*

Governments across the world attempt to contain the H1N1 swine flu and avoid both a pandemic and global hysteria as more possible swine flu cases surface in Canada, New Zealand and the United States. The World Bank says it will send Mexico \$25 million in loans for immediate aid and \$180 million in long-term assistance to address the outbreak. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States were following a playbook of precautions developed over the past five years to prepare for the next super-flu. The WHO on Saturday asked all countries to step up detection of this strain of H1N1 swine flu.

**28 April**

*Health  
Ontario  
Generic drug companies  
Penalties*

The Ontario government announces that it has ordered seven generic drug companies, four wholesales and one pharmacy to pay \$33.8 million – penalties for paying or receiving excessive rebates. As well, the government has also laid charges under the Provincial Offences Act against a drug company, wholesaler, pharmacy and three individuals, accusing them of providing false and misleading information or obstructing an inspection. The penalties and charges follow audits of the industry that are still under way, after discrepancies in the reporting of rebates paid by drug companies or received by pharmacies came to light. The next wave of audits will be completed in a couple of months, a ministry official said.

**30 April**

*Health  
H1N1*

The World Health Organization (WHO) raises its pandemic alert to 5, its second-highest level, warning of widespread human infection from the swine flu outbreak that originated in Mexico. Phase five indicates the disease is able to spread easily between humans and is a strong signal that a pandemic is imminent. The WHO and national governments have confirmed 148 cases in nine countries. Most of those cases are in the United States, where the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 91 cases.

- 1 May**  
*Health*  
*H1N1*
- The Government of Canada launches a major public information Citizen Readiness Campaign to make Canadians and their families more aware of the H1N1 flu virus (human swine flu). Print ads, related to the campaign, focus on how to prevent flu infection will appear across the country in major daily and weekly newspapers on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 19 May**  
*Health*  
*Chalk River*  
*Reactor*
- Chalk River reactor shuts down after a power outage in parts of eastern Ontario and western Quebec. However, a heavy water leak was detected within the facility the following day, and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) estimates the reactor will be out of service for more than a month while repair options are considered. The agency says the heavy water is being contained and stored in drums, and there is no threat to workers, the public, the environment or nuclear safety as a result. The aging facility provides about half the global supply of isotopes used in medical imaging. AECL says it has enough medical isotopes for the week, but will be unable to meet demand by Saturday.
- 19 May**  
*Health*  
*H1N1*
- Canada's chief public health officer, David Butler-Jones, expresses cautious optimism that the country has seen the worst of a new virulent flu strain for the season and told Canadians that they no longer need to postpone travel plans to Mexico.
- 29 May**  
*Economy*  
*Federal-provincial*  
*meeting*
- Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty meets his provincial and territorial counterparts at Meech Lake, Quebec, to discuss the state of the Canadian economy and measures taken to provide stimulus, and to review progress on implementing Canada's Economic Action Plan.
- 8 June**  
*Health*  
*Ontario*  
*eHealth*
- The CEO of eHealth Ontario, Sarah Kramer, defends her role in a spending scandal that has cost taxpayers millions of dollars. She was given a \$317,000 severance package and received a \$114,000 bonus after just months on the job.
- 11 June**  
*Health*  
*H1N1*
- The Government of Canada today reassures Canadians that it will continue to implement the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan in close coordination with domestic and international partners in order to address H1N1 flu virus. The announcement was made in response to today's decision by the World Health Organization to raise the H1N1 flu virus pandemic alert level from Phase Five to Phase Six.
- 12 June**  
*Health*  
*H1N1*
- The federal and provincial governments are developing a plan to implement in the event the H1N1 pandemic does take hold. The plan stipulates that guidelines need to be developed to assist doctors in making tough choices about the allocation of the vaccine.
- 1 September**
- British Columbia health study allows two Vancouver therapists to give the

*Health*  
*Vancouver Trials*

drug ecstasy to patients in a scientific trial aimed at finding new ways to help people with post-traumatic stress disorder. The two therapists are the first Canadians to be permitted to conduct a trial like this. They are recruiting 12 people to take part, which they hope might include Canadian soldiers and police officers.

### **30 September**

*Health*  
*H1N1*  
*Aboriginal Peoples*  
*Manitoba*

In Wasagamack, Manitoba, a 2,000-member reserve, the Aboriginal communities in Manitoba ask for help with the H1N1 flu and instead receive 200 body bags. Jim Wolfe, Manitoba director of Health Canada's Inuit and Aboriginal Health Branch, subsequently apologizes for sending body bags to Manitoba First Nations communities this afternoon, explaining that the 200 post-mortem kits sent to northern communities were never intended to be part of the H1N1 flu kits.

### **1 October**

*Health*  
*Seasonal Flu*  
*and H1N1*  
*vaccination*

New Brunswick's public health authorities moved up seasonal flu shots for all their residents before proceeding to the pandemic vaccine campaign. Quebec and Nunavut defer their seasonal flu campaigns until after their H1N1 mass vaccination clinics. Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories and Yukon will offer seasonal shots only to the elderly, then they will roll out the swine flu vaccine when it becomes available in November, and resume seasonal flu shots in December or January.

### **7 October**

*Health*  
*Ontario*  
*eHealth*

Ontario's Auditor-General has linked Premier Dalton McGuinty to the hiring of former eHealth Ontario chief executive officer Sarah Kramer, whom he says wielded considerable power and ignored the agency's own policies in doling out lucrative contracts to consultants. Under Ms. Kramer's watch, two thirds of the dollar value of contracts at eHealth were awarded without competitive tenders, Jim McCarter says in a report. eHealth's Board of Directors felt it had little power over Ms. Kramer because chairman Alan Hudson hired her "with the support of the Premier," the report said. Ms. Kramer and Dr. Hudson resigned from eHealth in June over the contracts.

### **14 October**

*Health*  
*H1N1*

David Butler Jones, Canada's chief public health officer, said the H1N1 vaccine needs to be tested for its safety and effectiveness before being rolled out to Canadians. However, doctors are worried that not getting the flu shot out right away will mean that the virus will peak before people get inoculated. Canada's vaccine, produced by GlaxoSmithKline at its plant in Ste-Foy, Quebec, has yet to be approved by Health Canada. Ottawa has already ordered 50 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine from GlaxoSmithKline.

### **15 October**

*Health*

Chief public health officer says Canadians will get H1N1 shots faster than other countries. He also said that although Canada may be behind other

*H1N1*

countries in rolling out its swine flu vaccine, the population should be immunized by Christmas before the virus peaks.

**19 October**

*Health*

*H1N1*

David Butler-Jones, Canada's chief public-health officer, has hinted that Canadians could be offered the H1N1 vaccine at the end of October if Health Canada moves through the regulatory hurdles quickly. More than one million doses of the H1N1 pandemic vaccine have been shipped to provinces and territories, and Health Canada is expected to approve the drug as early as this week.

**27 October**

*Health*

*H1N1*

Federal health officials spend \$2.55 million more on an emergency order of 200,000 doses of the H1N1 vaccine intended for pregnant women. The order is expected to be delivered to provinces and territories next week.

**29 October**

*Health*

*H1N1*

Although Canada ordered 50 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine, only six million will be shipped to provinces and territories by the end of the week. High risk groups of individuals are asked to get inoculated first, followed by the rest of the population. Only 500 out of 4,000 Toronto doctors in medical practices have applied for the vaccine due to the paperwork.

**30 October**

*Health*

*H1N1*

The federal government warns the provinces that they will receive less H1N1 vaccine than promised. Health officials in Manitoba had been assured of receiving 134,000 doses every week, but last Wednesday only 72,000 doses arrived.

**6 November**

*Health*

*H1N1*

A number of officials involved in the H1N1 flu crisis say Canada needs a second flu vaccine producer in the future. While the Harper government has applauded GlaxoSmithKline Inc. (GSK) for making more than 6 million doses so far at its facility in Ste-Foy, Quebec., GSK was forced to make changes to its production line in mid-course, which caused delays in the delivery of vaccines to the provinces.

**12 November**

*Health*

*H1N1*

Vaccinating Canadians against H1N1 costs the country nearly twice as much as health officials expected and the tally could easily climb above \$2 billion before the pandemic has subsided. The federal government ordered 50.4 million doses for \$403.2 million in total. The federal government is covering 60 percent of that amount, with the provinces and territories picking up the remainder.



## INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

**16 January**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Agreement on  
Internal Trade*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Canada's provincial premiers and territorial leaders endorse two key amendments to the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) at the First Ministers' Meeting. They revised the Labour Mobility Chapter of the AIT so that it will provide that any worker certified for an occupation is recognized as qualified for that occupation by all other provinces and territories. The revised government-to-government resolution of the AIT will provide for monetary penalties of up to \$5 million for continued non-compliance with AIT obligations.

**19 January**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada  
British Columbia*

Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, and Ida Chong, British Columbia Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development, signs a new Canada- British Columbia Western Economic Partnership Agreement that will support long-term economic growth and competitiveness in British Columbia. Both the British Columbia government and the federal government will provide \$25 million for this project.

**18 February**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Ontario  
Joint funding  
Transportation*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Ontario Premier Dalton Mcguinty announce transit funding for GO transit. Ottawa and Ontario plan to spend \$173 million on 6,800 new parking spaces at 12 GO stations in the Greater Toronto Area and \$75.5 million on rail upgrades at the Hamilton junction. Another \$250 million has been earmarked for other service improvements, but no details were provided. Ottawa and Ontario signed an agreement last July that will see the two governments spend just under \$11 billion in the province on public transit, roads and bridges.

**13 March**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
British Columbia,  
Alberta,  
Saskatchewan  
Joint cabinet  
meeting*

British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan press Ottawa for help to combat escalating gang violence. Saskatchewan will be the newest partner at a joint cabinet meeting in Vancouver at which the common front on crime will be one half of an agenda that also aims to reposition the West in Canada's new economic reality. British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell said the West, with its energy wealth and Pacific Gateway strategy, is well positioned to help Canada recover from the recession. Each of the three provinces has separately pressed for changes to the Criminal Code that have yet to generate a response from the federal government. They hope Ottawa will listen to their one voice. The three governments have informally agreed to unite behind demands for a package of amendments.

**18 March**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada,  
New Brunswick*

Josée Verner, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister for La Francophonie, and Hédard Albert, Minister of Wellness, Culture and Sport in New Brunswick and Minister responsible for the Francophonie, sign a \$1 million memorandum of understanding ensuring Canada's contribution to New

*La Francophonie*

Brunswick's participation in La Francophonie, and its follow-up on the organization's proceedings.

**20 March**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Alberta  
Western Economic  
Partnership Agreement*

Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, and Doug Horner, Minister of Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, sign a new \$50 million Canada-Alberta Western Economic Partnership Agreement (WEPA) that will support long-term economic growth and competitiveness in Alberta. Funding provided through the Agreement will be used to develop projects that meet the joint federal-provincial priorities, including: technology commercialization; business productivity and competitiveness; trade and investment; and value-added processing. This new agreement brings the total WEPA investment by the federal and provincial governments in the four western provinces to \$200 million.

**20 March**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Joint funding*

Nathalie Normandeau, Deputy Premier of Quebec and *Ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire*, and Jacques Gourde, Member of Parliament for Lotbinière–Chutes-de-la-Chaudière, announce that Saint-Urbain Parish in the Regional County Municipality (RCM) of Charlevoix will receive \$292,510 in joint government financial assistance under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) to add a new sector to its regional industrial park.

**20 March**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada,  
British Columbia  
Joint funding*

British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell, Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia–Pacific Gateway, and Dale Parker TransLink chair, announce several new major transit projects valued at \$280 million. The British Columbia government is contributing over \$118 million, with the balance coming from TransLink and local government partners. The federal government is contributing \$88.3 million.

**23 March**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
joint funding  
MRIF*

Acting on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Deputy Premier of Quebec and *Ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire*, Serge Simard, *Ministre délégué aux Ressources naturelles et à la Faune* and Minister responsible for du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, joins Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, in announcing that the municipalities of Saint-Bruno, Hébertville-Station and Larouche will receive \$15 million in combined government financial assistance under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) to carry out a joint project to bring their water supply facilities up to standard. This funding will be used for the construction of drinking water reservoirs and the installation of water mains to supply groundwater.

**26 March**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec*

The governments of Canada and Quebec are co-operating on a joint investment to improve water systems that will create jobs, strengthen the economy, and improve the quality of life of Quebecers. Prime Minister announced a specific project in Lévis to improve and expand the

*Joint funding*

Desjardins drinking water treatment facility.

**27 March**

*Intergovernmental*

*Relations*

*Canada, Nova Scotia*

*Joint funding*

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway and Pat Dunn, Nova Scotia Minister of Health Promotion and Protection announce an investment of \$22 million in a multi-purpose centre in Pictou County to serve the area's health, business and educational needs.

**3 April**

*Intergovernmental*

*Relations*

*Canada, Quebec*

*Joint funding*

Acting on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Deputy Premier of Quebec and Ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire, Dominique Vien, Ministre des Services gouvernementaux and Member of the National Assembly for Bellechasse, and Steven Blaney, Member of Parliament for Lévis-Bellechasse, acting on behalf of Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, announce that the Municipality of Saint-Léon-de-Standon will receive an additional \$197,632 in joint government funding, up from \$235,686 to \$433,318, under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF). This funding increase is needed for the installation of a chlorine disinfection system, telemetry system and monitoring and control equipment, as well as for the construction of a new washwater treatment and drainage system. The project also calls for various modifications to be made to the drinking water reservoir.

**3 April**

*Intergovernmental*

*Relations*

*Canada,*

*Prince Edward Island*

*Joint funding*

*Canada Games*

Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Regional Minister for Prince Edward Island, and Carolyn Bertram, provincial Minister Responsible for the Canada Games announce an additional \$1 million funding to ensure that Prince Edward Island successfully hosts the 2009 Canada Games this summer. Over 4,000 of Canada's best athletes are expected to participate at the games.

**9 April**

*Intergovernmental*

*Relations*

*Canada,*

*British Columbia*

*Labour Market*

Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, Rich Coleman, Minister of Housing and Social Development for British Columbia, and Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development for British Columbia, sign an amended agreement that will see \$156 million in new funding distributed through the current Labour Market and Labour Market Development.

**14 April**

*Intergovernmental*

*Relations*

*Ontario, NL*

*Equalization Payments*

Ontario collects its first equalization payment. Until last year, Ontario appeared unassailable as the country's economic powerhouse. However, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced last November that Ontario would begin receiving payments under the equalization program during the fiscal year beginning this April 1. This is the first year Newfoundland and Labrador will not be receiving equalization payments since the program was introduced in 1957.

**30 April**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Employment training*

Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec, with Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, Josée Verner, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, President of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada and Minister for La Francophonie, and Sam Hamad, Quebec Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, announce the signing of three new agreements totaling over \$1 billion aimed at developing the skills of workers and improving the employability of unemployed people in Quebec.

**4 May**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Alberta  
Joint funding*

Gary Goodyear, Canada's Minister of State (Science and Technology), Rona Ambrose, Canada's Minister of Labour, and Doug Horner, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, announce investments totalling more than \$348 million in 28 projects for post-secondary institutions in Alberta. The investment will help provide economic stimulus and promote employment by creating jobs for engineers, architects, trades people and technicians. It is also helping to generate the advanced technological infrastructure needed to keep Canada's research and educational facilities at the forefront of scientific advancement.

**13 May**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Newfoundland  
and Labrador  
Joint funding  
fisheries*

Gail Shea, Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and Tom Hedderson, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, announce \$266,604 in funding for early commercialization of submersible technology that will enable development of deep water mussel aquaculture in areas exposed to arctic ice in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Government of NL will contribute \$45,514 from its Aquaculture Strategic Development Program.

**22 May**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Manitoba  
Joint funding*

Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board and Member of Parliament for Provencher, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and Andrew Swan, Minister of Competitiveness, Training and Trade for Manitoba, sign an agreement to invest more than \$34 million in Manitoba's employment and training programs that will help an estimated 3,400 Manitobans get back to work. This new funding is in addition to the almost \$128 million provided to the Province of Manitoba over the next two years for employment and training programs under existing agreements.

**22 May**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Alberta  
Joint funding  
Employment*

Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre-North, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, along with Hector Goudreau, Minister of Employment and Immigration for Alberta, announce the signing of the agreement to invest \$101 million in Alberta's employment and training programs. This new funding is in addition to the approximately \$315 million provided to the Province of Alberta over the next two years for employment and training programs under existing agreements. The Government of Alberta will use the funding to support provincial

programs and services that help eligible individuals return to employment, improve their skills for employment or obtain or maintain employment.

## **22 May**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Saskatchewan  
Funding  
Employment*

Andrew Scheer, Member of Parliament for Regina–Qu’Appelle, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and Lyle Stewart, Minister of Enterprise and Innovation for Saskatchewan, on behalf of Rob Norris, Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour for Saskatchewan, announce the signing of the \$27 million agreement in Saskatchewan’s employment and training program. This funding will help workers and industries affected by the economic downturn.

## **25 May**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Ontario  
Joint funding  
Post-secondary  
education*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, and John Milloy, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, announce the first round of infrastructure investments delivering more than \$1 billion in new funding for 28 projects at post-secondary institutions throughout Ontario. The Ontario government in the 2009 Budget commits to invest \$780 million in its colleges and universities to modernize facilities and boost long-term research and skills training capacity. The investment leverages more than \$1.476 billion over two years, including \$587 million in federal funding, \$641.2 million in provincial funding, and \$248.1 million from other funding sources, including the private sector, charitable contributions, and the universities and colleges themselves.

## **4 June**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada,  
Prince Edward Island  
Funding  
Post-secondary  
Institutions*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, and Robert Ghiz, Premier of Prince Edward Island, announce infrastructure investments for post-secondary institutions in Prince Edward Island. The Government of Canada introduces the Knowledge Infrastructure Program. This two-year, \$2 billion economic stimulus measure supports infrastructure enhancement at Canadian post-secondary institutions, including universities and community colleges.

## **5 June**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada,  
Prince Edward Island  
Joint funding*

Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and Neil LeClair, Prince Edward Island (PEI) Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development announce a combined federal and provincial \$1 million dollar investment in PEI’s oyster aquaculture industry.

## **5 June**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Manitoba  
Bilingual Service Centre*

Greg Selinger, Manitoba Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for French Language Services, and Shelly Glover, Parliamentary Secretary for Official Languages and Member of Parliament for Saint Boniface, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, open the St. Vital Bilingual Service Centre, housing Service Canada and Employment Manitoba. The service centre is meant to

highlight Manitoba's commitment to increasing access to French language services in the province.

**3 July**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
funding*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development), joins Serge Simard, Ministre délégué aux Ressources naturelles et à la Faune du Québec and Ministre responsable de la région du Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, acting on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Deputy Premier of Quebec, Ministre des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune and Ministre responsable du Plan Nord, in announcing that more than \$61 million will be invested in silvicultural operations in the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region between 2009 and 2011. This funding, which represents the region's share of the \$200 million, will serve mainly for the rehabilitation of areas poorly regenerated as a result of the numerous forest fires that ravaged the region in 2002 and 2005.

**6 July**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Funding*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development), and Nathalie Normandeau, Deputy Premier of Quebec and Ministre des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, Ministre responsable du Plan Nord and Ministre responsable de la région Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, announce investments of \$900,000 for 2009-2010, for the repair and restoration of bridges and culverts on forest multi-use roads on Gaspésie public lands.

**6 July**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Manitoba  
Funding  
Post-secondary*

Rod Bruinooge, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South, on behalf of Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), and Peter Bjornson, Manitoba Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth, on behalf of Diane McGifford, Manitoba Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy, announce \$41.2 million in funding for infrastructure projects at post-secondary institutions in Manitoba.

**9 July**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Joint funding*

Acting on behalf of Laurent Lessard, Ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire, Michel Matte, Member of the National Assembly for Portneuf, and Sylvie Boucher, Member of Parliament for Beauport-Limoilou, acting on behalf of Denis Lebel, City of Cap-Santé will receive \$1,571,668 in joint government funding under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) to extend its domestic sewer system to the eastern limits of the city.

**13 July**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Funding*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, and Serge Simard, Ministre délégué aux Ressources naturelles et à la Faune and Ministre responsable de la région du Saguenay – Lac-Saint-Jean, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Deputy Premier of Quebec, Ministre des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune and Ministre responsable du Plan Nord, announce investments of \$1,900,000 for 2009-2010, for the repair and restoration of bridges and culverts on forest multi-use roads on Côte-Nord public lands.

**13 July**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada,  
Newfoundland and  
Labrador  
Funding*

Keith Ashfield, Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency), Dianne Whalen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Lumsden Mayor Jeannette Gibbons announce that federal and provincial governments will provide \$138,000 in funding to assist the Town of Lumsden, Newfoundland and Labrador in upgrading its water treatment plant through a contribution of just over \$414,000 from the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF).

**17 July**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Joint funding*

Acting on behalf of Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister responsible for the Outaouais region and Member of Parliament for Pontiac, and Norman MacMillan, Quebec's *Ministre délégué aux Transports*, *Ministre responsable de la région de l'Outaouais* and Member of the National Assembly for Papineau, acting on behalf of Laurent Lessard, *Ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire*, announce that the City of Thurso will receive \$2,775,000 in joint government funding under the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund – Quebec for upgrades to its water production plant.

**22 July**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Alberta  
Joint funding  
Knowledge  
Infrastructure  
Program*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, Rona Ambrose, Minister of Labour, and Doug Horner, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, announce investments totalling \$113.2 million in funding for infrastructure projects at post-secondary institutions in Alberta. The funding is part of the second round of investments under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program and includes \$40.7 million from the federal government and \$72.5 million from the provincial government and other sources. It builds on the more than \$348 million announced for projects in Alberta under the first round of funding in May.

**3 August**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Joint funding  
MKIF*

Claude Béchar, *Ministre responsable des Affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes et de la Réforme des institutions démocratiques*, *Ministre de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation*, *Ministre responsable de la région du Bas-Saint-Laurent* and Member of the National Assembly for Kamouraska-Témiscouata, joins Jacques Gourde, Member of Parliament for Lotbinière–Chutes-de-la-Chaudière, in announcing \$1,544,932 in joint government funding for infrastructure renewal under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) to the cities of Pohénégamook (two projects) and Notre-Dame-du-Lac.

**6 August**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Joint funding*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development), Jacques Gourde, Member of Parliament for Lotbinière–Chutes-de-la-Chaudière, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Revenue, and Jean-Paul Diamond, Member of the National Assembly for Maskinongé and Parliamentary Assistant to the *Ministre des Affaires*

municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire , acting on behalf of Laurent Lessard, Ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire , announce that the Municipality of Sainte-Ursule will receive \$2,076,220 in joint government funding under the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund – Quebec for water treatment work in the Petit-Poste sector. The project involves installing sanitary sewer lines along Rang Fontarabie and de la Gare Road.

**12 August**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Manitoba  
Joint funding*

Manitoba Health Minister, Theresa Oswald, Rod Bruinooge, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification), and Winnipeg's Acting Deputy Mayor, Gord Steeves, announce funding for renovations to the football field that will create jobs in Winnipeg. Total cost of the project is \$420,000. Federal funding of \$138,600 is provided through the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan with the Province of Manitoba providing \$150,000. The City of Winnipeg is contributing \$61,000 towards the project.

**24 August**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Joint funding*

Acting on behalf of Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development), Daniel Petit, Member of Parliament for Charlesbourg–Haute-Saint-Charles, joins Lucie Charlebois, Member of the National Assembly for Soulanges and Deputy Whip for the Government of Quebec, acting on behalf of Laurent Lessard, Ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire, in announcing that the City of Coteau-du-Lac will receive \$1,425,000 in joint government financial assistance under the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund – Quebec for work to bring its drinking water production plant up to standard. This project mainly involves the installation of additional water treatment equipment. These upgrades, which will directly benefit some 5,686 residents, will enable the city to improve the quality of its drinking water while renewing community infrastructure from a sustainable development standpoint.

**1 September**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Joint funding*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State (Canada Economic Development) and David Whissell, Quebec's Ministre du Travail and Ministre responsable de la région des Laurentides et de la région de Lanaudière, acting on behalf of Laurent Lessard, Ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire, announce that the City of Mirabel will receive \$1,321,500 in joint government funding under the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund. The work is aimed at improving the appearance of the raw water from the Charles Street well.

**4 September**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec*

Christian Paradis, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, joins Laurent Lessard, Quebec's Ministre des Affaires municipales des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire, Ministre responsable de la région de la Chaudière-Appalaches, in announcing that the Municipality of Saint-



*Joint funding*

Jacques-de-Leeds will receive \$10,561,102 in joint government financial assistance under the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund – Quebec to carry out major water infrastructure work. The funding will bring the municipality's drinking water facilities up to standard, replace the drinking water distribution system in its entirety, install a domestic sewer system and build a water treatment plant.

**11 September**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, New Brunswick  
Joint funding  
Employment*

The governments of Canada and New Brunswick are working in partnership to help older workers remain active in the workforce by investing over \$10 million and extending the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers until March 2012. This support will help up to 1,000 older workers in New Brunswick acquire new skills and find jobs.

**11 December**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Saskatchewan  
Joint funding  
WEPA*

A new bio-technology that is being developed to access hard to reach oil reserves has received \$953,944 from the Canada - Saskatchewan Western Economic Partnership Agreement (WEPA), to carry out tests on the efficacy and usability of the technology in the oil wells. The Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery (MEOR), will pump nutrients into oil reservoirs to stimulate growth of microorganisms that react to release trapped oil that is then pumped out to market.

**14 December**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Joint funding*

Laurent Lessard, Quebec's Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy, acting on behalf of Michelle Courchesne, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, announce that the Parish of Saint-Gilles will have new water games and a larger recreation centre project from the \$369,616 in joint government financial assistance contributed in equal part by the Government of Quebec and Government of Canada. The Parish of Saint-Gilles will invest the remaining third of the project's costs, or \$184,808. The aim of this work is to improve the infrastructure in Saint-Gilles' municipal park.

**14 December**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Joint funding*

Acting on behalf of Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, Maxime Bernier, Member of Parliament for Beauce, joined Laurent Lessard, Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy, in announcing that the City of Beauceville will receive \$1,246,840 in joint government financial assistance under the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund – Quebec to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant and pumping stations.

**21 December**

*Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Canada, Quebec  
Joint funding*

Denis Lebel, Minister of State for Canada Economic Development, joins Claude Béchar, Member of the Quebec National Assembly for Kamouraska-Témiscouata, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs and the Reform of Democratic Institutions, Deputy Government House Leader and Minister responsible for the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, in announcing that the City of Mont-Joli will receive \$1,037,364 in joint government

financial assistance under the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund – Quebec (FCCQ) to replace its main drinking water reservoir.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

### **5 January**

*International  
Relations  
Canada, United States*

Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announces that Canada and the United States ratify an agreement on changes to five chapters of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST), which expired at the end of 2008.

### **7 January**

*International Relations  
Israel, Gaza  
Federal contribution*

Beverley J. Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, and Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs announce that Canada is responding to the situation in Gaza. On January 3 Israeli troops entered northern Gaza, initiating a ground offensive. The Government of federal contribution Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will contribute \$4 million dollars.

### **13 January**

*International Relations  
Federal funding  
Afghanistan*

Beverley J. Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, announces Canadian humanitarian and economic assistance to address winter food shortages and create opportunities for economic growth in Afghanistan, especially in the agriculture sector.

### **14 January**

*International Relations  
Arctic Sovereignty*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper dismisses concerns that any disagreement with the United States will occur over a new U.S. policy that challenges Canada's Arctic sovereignty. President George W. Bush's administration released a policy on Monday, just days before president-elect Barack Obama is scheduled to take office, reasserting the Americans' claim that the Northwest Passage is an international waterway, open to all.

### **14 January**

*International Relations  
NATO  
Albania and Croatia*

Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Peter Mackay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, announce that Canada has ratified the protocols of accession to NATO for Albania and Croatia, helping move the two countries closer to membership in the alliance.

### **14 January**

*International Relations  
Omar Khadr affair*

Omar Khadr, a Canadian who is the only Western citizen still held in Guantanamo Bay, heads for a courtroom in Guantanamo Bay despite objections from prosecution and defence lawyers. However, the prosecution agreed that a delay would be in the “interests of justice,” according to Mr. Khadr’s lead military defence lawyer, Lieutenant-Commander Bill Kuebler.

### **15 January**

*International Relations  
State visit*

Governor-General Michaëlle Jean visits Haiti. The trip comes as Haitians struggle in the face of a food crisis exacerbated by hurricanes and tropical storms. The Canadian government has increased Canadian aid

Haiti

commitments to \$555 million over five years. The funds are aimed at addressing a vicious circle of overlapping problems such as deforestation, a lack of electricity, and soil erosion.

**21 January**

*International Relations  
Trade Office in India*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, opens a new Canadian Trade office in Hyderabad, India to promote trade in the region. Minister Day also announces the opening of a new trade office in Ahmedabad by April 2009. The Government of Canada has identified India as a priority market under the Global Commerce Strategy, which provides \$50 million per year to further develop Canada's trade and investment interests at home and abroad.

**22 January**

*International Relations  
federal funding  
Nuclear detection*

Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, announces that Canada will contribute \$10 million towards U.S. efforts to detect and secure dangerous nuclear and radiological materials in Russia and Ukraine. This will help stop the trafficking of nuclear and radiological materials as Canada's contribution will fund the installation of radiation-detection equipment.

**28 January**

*International Relations  
Free Trade  
EFTA*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, tables Parliament legislation to implement Canada's Free trade agreement with the states of the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland). This will provide a strategic platform for Canadian companies to tap into value chains both directly in the EFTA countries and indirectly in the European Union.

**30 January**

*International Relations  
World Economic  
Forum*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for Asia-Pacific Gateway, and Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, travels to Davos, Switzerland to attend the annual meeting for the World Economic Forum. More than 40 heads of state and government upwards of 20 ministers of trade are expected to attend this year's meeting.

**30 January**

*International Relations  
United States  
"Buy American"*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper tells Parliament that he has notified the United States Ambassador, Michael Wilson, that he is concerned about the "Buy American" bill because he considers it to be a protectionist move that possibly violated trade agreements. The \$819 billion "Buy American" stimulus package passed by the U.S. House discourages American companies from buying foreign iron and steel in favour of domestic manufacturers. This bill will impact the Canadian steel industry.

**3 February**

*International Relations  
Jordan  
Beef ban lifted*

International Trade Minister Stockwell Day and Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announces Jordan's decision to lift the ban on Canadian beef imposed in 2003 because of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The Canadian Beef Export Federation estimates access to Jordan could increase the value of Canadian beef exports up to \$1 million.

**4 February**

*International Relations*  
*United States*  
*"Buy American"*

The United States Senate softens the "Buy American" provision contained in the economic recovery bill. This is good news for Canada since the bill will hurt Canada's economy. Michael Wilson, the Canadian ambassador to the United States, sent a terse letter to Senate leaders earlier this week urging them to drop the provision, and Embassy officials have been continuing to lobby congressional leaders to plead Canada's case. The European Union also sent a letter to Congress.

**6 February**

*International Relations*  
*G20*  
*federal funding*

Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, announces that \$50 million in federal support will be provided for the 2010 G8 Summit to be held in Huntsville, Ontario.

**11 February**

*International Relations*  
*Canada,*  
*United Kingdom*  
*Polar Research*

Chuck Strahl, Canada's Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, and Lord Paul Drayson, the United Kingdom's Minister of State for Science and Innovation, announce the signing of a Memorandum of understanding for collaboration on polar research activities. This will establish a framework for future sharing of polar facilities and infrastructure in Canada and the U.K. Joint field studies and shared access to scientific expertise in the polar regions will also be pursued.

**19 February**

*International Relations*  
*Canada, United States*  
*Presidential visit*

In his first official visit abroad as United States President, Barack Obama meets Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The two leaders agree that the United States and Canada will pursue economic recovery measures and efforts to strengthen the international financial system and to counter the global economic recession.

**5 March**

*International Relations*  
*Canada,*  
*European Union*  
*Economic agreement*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, announces that Canada and the European Union have agreed on areas including trade in goods and services, investment, technical barriers to trade and regulatory cooperation that they will negotiate in an economic agreement.

**16 March**

*International Relations*  
*UN Security Council*

Member of Parliament for Calgary East, Deepak Obhrai, goes to Africa to get support for a Canadian seat on the United Nation's Security Council. However, he may have difficulty because of Canada's changes to African aid. Canada recently cut off the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) program funding to Africa last month, which could affect the countries that Obhrai will visit. Last month Bev Oda, the minister who handles CIDA, announced that the program would see 80 percent of Canadian country-to-country aid focused on 20 nations.

**16 March**

*International Relations*  
*G20 meeting*

The G20 meeting of finance ministers held at Horsham, West Sussex, England concludes. G20 countries agreed that further action to restore global growth, support lending and strengthen the reform of the global

*Finance* financial system is needed. However, no new initiatives were announced to stop the global contraction.

**17 March**

*International Relations  
federal funding  
Afghanistan*

Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Afghanistan, conclude a three-day visit to Afghanistan during which they announced additional support from Canada to help strengthen the rule of law in that country through a contribution of over \$21 million. Strengthening the rule of law is one of Canada's six priorities in Afghanistan.

**18 March**

*International Relations  
Canada, UAE  
Economic cooperation*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, concludes a successful visit to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) by signing an agreement on economic cooperation, trade and investment with Sultan Saeed Nasser Al Mansouri, the U.A.E.'s Minister of Economy.

**1 April**

*International Relations  
G20  
Leaders' Summit*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper participates in the G20 leaders' summit in London on the world economy. Canada states its four priorities: 1) leaders fix the financial system to get credit flowing; 2) implementing coordinated stimulus activity in an effective and expedited manner; 3) avoiding protectionism; and 4) strengthening trade and investment flows, including concrete steps to further open-up global trade. Canada also committed to provide additional \$10 billion to the IMF for emergency assistance.

**1 April**

*International Relations  
Terrorism  
Abdelrazik affair*

Abousfian Abdelrazik, who has been cleared in writing of any terrorist or criminal activity by both the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service and the RCMP, remains stranded in Khartoum because the Harper government refuses to issue him either a passport or an emergency travel document. Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon says Mr. Abdelrazik must get himself removed from the UN terrorist blacklist first before he can return home.

**2 April**

*International Relations  
Afghanistan  
Family laws*

An emergency meeting amongst Western diplomats was called in Kabul regarding new Afghan family laws. It is a new family-law code for Afghanistan's Shia minority. While it does not apply to all, women's groups in Afghanistan fear the precedent. Women do not have access to education and health care, they cannot leave the house without the approval of their husband and wives cannot refuse sexual relations with their husbands. The Canadian government expressed outrage stressing that Canadian soldiers did not fight and die for an Afghanistan that would pass such a law.

**3 April**

*International Relations  
G20*

The leaders of the G20 countries pledge more than \$1 trillion in aid to help struggling countries and to revive trade. They made a commitment to add \$500 billion to the resources of the IMF, taking it to \$750 billion. Of this

<i>Aid</i>	amount, \$100 billion will come from the European Union, \$100 billion from Japan and \$40 billion from China.
<b>5 April</b> <i>International Relations</i> <i>Canada, North Korea</i> <i>Long range rocket launch</i>	Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, expresses serious concern regarding North Korea's use of a long-range rocket in the launch of a satellite on April 5. Although the North Korean government claims that the launch was for space development purposes, it was based on military technology and will benefit North Korea's ballistic missile program.
<b>8 April</b> <i>International Relations</i> <i>Canada, United States</i> <i>Softwood lumber</i> <i>Tariff</i>	United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk announces that the tariff on softwood lumber from Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba will be imposed next Wednesday, and will continue until the United States collects \$54.8 million (U.S.). The move could strike a devastating blow to the forestry sector in Quebec and Ontario, where industry associations warn that 10,000 jobs or more will be in jeopardy. The tariff is a penalty imposed because Ottawa allowed companies in four provinces to ship more lumber in 2007 than allowed under the 2006 deal.
<b>9 April</b> <i>International Relations</i> <i>Canada, Japan</i> <i>Bilateral Air</i> <i>Transport Agreement</i>	Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, announces that the Government of Canada reached an agreement with Japan to expand the existing bilateral air transport agreement - this agreement will benefit trade, tourism and investments in Canada's economy. This new agreement marks further progress in the Government of Canada's Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative (APGCI). In the two years since the Government of Canada launched this initiative, strategic infrastructure projects valued at over \$2.6 billion have been announced across all four western provinces.
<b>9 April</b> <i>International Relations</i> <i>Canada, Japan</i> <i>Two day trade mission concludes</i>	Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, and Toshihiro Nikai, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, agree to direct officials to identify specific areas of trade that will form the basis for a future economic partnership agreement. Minister Day announces this as he concluded a successful two-day trade mission to Tokyo and Nagoya. The two ministers welcome a new expanded bilateral air agreement, noting the increased business and tourism opportunities this agreement will provide.
<b>16 April</b> <i>International Relations</i> <i>Tamil Canadians</i> <i>demonstrate</i>	Over 1,000 Canadian Tamils line Ottawa's Wellington Street waving the bright red flags of a banned terrorist organization in front of Parliament Hill to protest against the escalating violence in Sri Lanka. The demonstrators are part of worldwide Tamil protests against what they describe as a deadly military offensive by the Sri Lankan military. A civil war has raged off and on for years in the South Asian island nation, but in recent months the Sri Lankan military has moved into territory traditionally held by the country's Tamil minority, who has long fought for

independence. The Tamil youth have requested to meet with a Conservative MP but so far no one has met with them.

**16 April**

*International Relations  
Canada, Morocco  
Agriculture  
Free trade agreement*

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz met with Moroccan Agriculture Minister Aziz Akhenouch and Moroccan Trade Minister Abdellatif Mazouz in Rabat, Morocco, to discuss opportunities for the negotiation of a mutually beneficial free trade agreement. The trade relationship between Canada and Morocco was worth \$450 million in 2008. Agricultural products were the vast majority of that trade for a total of \$330 million.

**17 April**

*International Relations  
Summit of the Americas*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper attends the 3 day fifth Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. This year's Summit is focused on restoring growth and prosperity, promoting energy security and sustainable development, enhancing public security, and consolidating democracy.

**20 April**

*International Relations  
Summit of the Americas  
conclude*

Stephen Harper credits Barack Obama with opening a “new era of dialogue” in the Americas as a hemispheric summit ended with surprising chords of harmony. It was a weekend in which Mr. Obama proposed a “new beginning” with Cuba – still suspended from such summits – promised to combat poverty and inequality in Latin America, and pledged to not only emphasize international law-enforcement in fighting drug crime, but also reducing United States’ demand for drugs and trafficking of guns.

**23 April**

*International Relations  
Canada, United States  
GM, Chrysler*

Federal and provincial officials are in the final stages of discussions with the United States Treasury and senior auto executives toward a contribution of as much as \$6-billion (U.S.) for unique cross-border financing that would see GM and Chrysler through the initial phases of creditor protection. Canada would contribute about 15 percent of the fund, which could reach \$40 billion (U.S.). The companies had initially proposed that governments lend or guarantee a \$125 billion in bridge or long-term loans, but the number was whittled down over months of difficult negotiations led largely by Treasury officials in Washington.

**23 April**

*International Relations  
Trade ministers’  
meeting*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, concludes a successful meeting with provincial and territorial trade ministers. Focusing on ways to advance Canada’s international trade and investment agenda, the ministers discussed Canada’s involvement with emerging markets such as China and India and how best to seize opportunities in those markets for Canadians. This important engagement helps Canadian firms thrive abroad and create jobs at home.

**24 April**

*International Relations  
G8*

Members of the Group of Eight (G8) industrial countries and major developing economies, meet on the island of Sicily, to sign a charter to extend the deal on biodiversity loss. Environment ministers from

*Meeting  
Sicily, Italy*

developed and developing nations agree to try to slow the rate of species loss around the world but failed to make a breakthrough in climate change negotiations.

**27 April**

*International Relations  
G20  
Financial crisis*

The G20 is on track to meet their pledge to spend the equivalent of two percent of their gross domestic product fighting the financial crisis, according to a new estimate by the International Monetary Fund. Brazil, Canada, Japan and the other members of the G20 major economies will spend \$820 billion (USD) on stimulus programs in 2009, compared with a March estimate of \$590 billion (USD). While acknowledging that implementing the spending programs remains crucial, officials this weekend are expressing confidence that they have done what is necessary to reverse the worst global recession since the Second World War.

**27 April**

*International Relations  
Canada, United States  
Trade Meetings*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, begins a successful visit to Washington, D.C., where he discusses trade issues with United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk and Commerce Secretary Gary Locke.

**28 April**

*International Relations  
Canada, United States  
Food labeling challenge*

Ottawa is taking the United States to the World Trade Organization over a new food labelling law that threatens tens of millions of dollars worth of Canadian hog and cattle exports, marking Canada's first formal trade fight with the Obama administration. Trade Minister Stockwell Day alerts U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk to the challenge when the two met for the first time in Washington. At issue is a new U.S. country-of-origin labeling, or COOL, law that forces U.S. food companies to carefully track and disclose to consumers all the foreign-sourced ingredients in their products. The rules were released early in the Obama presidency. Ottawa and the Obama administration began 2009 with a nearly clean trade slate. But tensions have ratcheted up in the three-plus months since Barack Obama's inauguration as the list of trade grievances has grown to include labeling, sparring over softwood lumber and the Buy American restrictions.

**29 April**

*International Relations  
EFTA free trade*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, announces that the free trade agreement with the states of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)—Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland—has received Royal Assent. The agreement is on track to come into effect on July 1, 2009.

**4 May**

*International Relations  
Canada, China  
Pork ban*

China bans imports of Alberta pork or live hogs after a herd of pigs in that province was confirmed to have been infected with the H1N1 virus. Stockwell Day, Canada's Minister of International Trade, says China's move was "disappointing and unwarranted." The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Public Health Agency of Canada are considering whether 2,200 pigs in central Alberta should be slaughtered.



- 4 May**  
*International Relations*  
*Canada, Somalia*  
*Mission extended*
- Defence Minister Peter MacKay says that the HMCS Winnipeg will extend its mission to deter piracy off the coast of Somalia into June. The HMCS Winnipeg arrived in early April and has intervened to prevent three or more attacks. MacKay said some NATO countries, including the United States (U.S.), France and Britain, have come to an agreement to allow pirates to be tried in some African countries.
- 4 May**  
*International Relations*  
*Four country tour*
- Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, launches a four-country tour to open doors for Canadian companies and promote Canadian technology, particularly in the energy sector. The Minister will visit Lithuania, Latvia, the Czech Republic and Romania.
- 5 May**  
*International Relations*  
*Canada, Latvia*  
*FIPA signed*
- Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, announces that Canada and Latvia have signed an updated foreign investment promotion and protection agreement (FIPA) that will encourage two-way investment. FIPAs are agreements that clearly lay out rules for signatory countries to follow. They offer a level of protection and predictability that helps companies invest with confidence.
- 6 May**  
*International Relations*  
*Canada,*  
*European Union*  
*Summit*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper travels to Prague, Czech Republic to participate in the Canada-European Union (EU) Summit. This year the participants will focus on continuing efforts to address international financial challenges, economic partnership, climate change, the environment, energy and sustainability, and international peace and security.
- 6 May**  
*International Relations*  
*Canada,*  
*European Union*  
*Economic Partnership*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper, European Union President Mirek Topolánek and European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, announce the historic launch of negotiations toward an economic partnership agreement between Canada and the European Union (EU). This partnership has the potential to bring a \$12 billion boost to the Canadian economy and lead to significant gains for both Canada and the EU. In addition to signing an air safety agreement, they also concluded negotiations on a comprehensive air transport agreement that will lower prices and give more choices for people traveling between Canada and Europe.
- 6 May**  
*International Relations*  
*Canada, United States*  
*Canadian Pacific*  
*Rail security*
- John Baird, Canada's Transport and Infrastructure Minister, announces that as a result of collaboration by the governments of Canada and the United States, and by Canadian Pacific (CP), rail cargo security at North America's busiest commercial border crossing has been further enhanced by a joint investment of \$8 million to secure a 7.5 km stretch of the CP rail corridor. The announcement for a Windsor Secure Rail Corridor includes the installation of state-of-the-art surveillance technology from the Walker Road site to the portal of the Detroit River rail tunnel, and special lighting

and fencing to secure the corridor. It also includes track reconfigurations, and signal and communications modifications.

**7 May**

*International Relations  
Canada, United States  
COOL*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, and Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, announce that the Government of Canada is taking action on behalf of Canadian farmers in the dispute over United States (US) country-of-origin labelling (COOL) measures. Canada initially requested WTO consultations with the U.S. on COOL in December 2008, as it believed the measures were creating undue trade restrictions. At that time, U.S. provisions were being implemented on an interim basis. A Final Rule to implement COOL was published in the U.S. Federal Register on January 15, 2009. However, on February 20, 2009, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture issued an open letter to the U.S. industry, encouraging the use of stricter and broader labelling practices. According to Canadian industry representatives, those proposals will only add to the challenges they are already experiencing. They have observed that, since COOL came into effect, some U.S. processors are choosing not to buy Canadian animals, or are trying to buy them at a reduced price.

**15 May**

*International Relations  
European Union  
Seal hunt*

The European Union (EU) assembly endorses a bill banning all products and processed goods derived from seals, including their skin, arguing that commercial seal hunting is inhumane. The bill still needs the backing of EU governments, but officials called that a formality since national envoys have already endorsed the bill. Canada's East Coast seal hunt is the largest of its kind in the world, killing an average of 300,000 harp seals annually. Canada exported around \$5.5 million (USD) worth of seal products to the EU in 2006. Inuit groups say the ban will spell disaster for their communities, which rely heavily on seal hunts for jobs and income. Canadian authorities say the seal hunt is sustainable, humane and provides income for isolated fishing communities. Canada and Norway have already warned they would take the 27-nation bloc to the World Trade Organization if it moved to ban seal product imports.

**25 May**

*International Relations  
Canada, Pakistan  
Arms ban*

The Harper Government invalidates the Defence Minister Peter MacKay's assertions that Canada is considering lifting an 11 year-old ban on arms sales to Pakistan. A senior Indian diplomat voiced concerns about Canada selling arms to neighbouring Pakistan. However, Pakistan's diplomats in Canada say that diplomats told them within the past two weeks it was being considered. An aide to Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon asserted that the ban will not be lifted.

**1 June**

*International Relations  
Canada, United States  
Border crossing*

New border rules requiring Passports, Fast Cards, Passport Cards, Secure Certificate of Indian Status, and Nexus Cards, are in effect at the United States and Canada border land and water crossing. The new rule is part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, intended to filter out terrorists

and other criminals before they enter the U.S.

**4 June**

*International Relations  
Canada, United States  
Protectionism*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper raises concerns about United States protectionism and says he wants to bring the awarding of local contracts in Canada and the United States under the free-trade umbrella. Harper is concerned that Canadian firms are being frozen out of billions of dollars worth of bids in an increasingly protectionist US. As the recession continues, Canadian firms have reported it is increasingly difficult to win rich contracts in U.S. cities because of the Buy American provisions of President Barack Obama's massive economic stimulus package, even though NAFTA countries are supposed to be exempt from them.

**5 June**

*International Relations  
Canada, United States  
U.S. Protectionism*

Provincial Premiers sign Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Free Trade pitch as he moves to exempt Canada from Buy American policies. Canadian firms are reporting difficulty getting contracts in U.S. cities because of the Buy American provisions of President Barack Obama's stimulus package.

**10 June**

*International Relations  
Canada,  
European Union  
Economy and Trade*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway and European Union Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton, announce that the first meeting on a Canada-European Union comprehensive economic and trade agreement took place today. A recent Canada-EU study demonstrated that freer trade between Canada and the EU has the potential to bring a \$12 billion boost to the Canadian economy and increase Canadian exports to the EU by about 20 percent.

**13 June**

*International Relations  
Canada, United States  
Great Lakes Water  
Quality Agreement*

During the official celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the Canada-U.S. Boundary Waters Treaty Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and United States (U.S.) Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announce, that Canada and the U.S. are committed to amending the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Agreement addresses threats to water quality in the Great Lakes and in the portion of the St. Lawrence River that straddles the Canada-U.S. border.

**18 June**

*International Relations  
Canada, China  
Health priorities*

Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, and Dr. Chen Zhu, Minister of Health for the People's Republic of China, signs a Plan of Action for continued cooperation between the two countries on health priorities of mutual concern. The signing ceremony followed discussions among senior Canadian and Chinese health officials and experts on a range of health issues, including strengthening and reform of health-care systems, primary health care and food safety. Canada and China are cooperating on a number of health-related fronts, including regulation of health products and medical research. Today's signing reinforces and broadens work in areas of common concern, such as emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and food safety.

**27 June**

*International Relations*  
*G8*  
*Foreign Ministers’*  
*meeting*

Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, attends the G8 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Trieste, Italy, held June 25 to 27, 2009. During the meeting, foreign ministers from the G8, and the European Union address international security issues such as nuclear non-proliferation, terrorism, crime and peacebuilding. Cannon expressed Canada’s views on regional and country issues concerning Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Africa, and the Middle East.

**9 July**

*International Relations*  
*G8 Summit*  
*L’Aquila, Italy*

At the G8 summit held in L’Aquila, Italy, the leaders discuss global warming and international trade and agree to reduce carbon emissions by 80 percent. The Canadian government explained that the 80 percent target is an aggregate number for all nations involved. Some countries can do more than 80 percent and others less, as long as the 80 percent figure is reached across the board.

**27 July**

*International Relations*  
*Arctic North*

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon and Science and Technology Minister Gary Goodyear, say Ottawa is creating a new economic development agency for the North. Because Conservatives are looking to bolster sovereignty in the Arctic the government is building a unique new research station in the High Arctic and has recently expanded Nahanni National Park. Additionally, Canada is working with other countries to map the ocean floor by 2013, so that title to the resource-rich seas of the Arctic can be divided up and governed peacefully.

**30 July**

*International Relations*  
*Abdelrazik affair*

The role played by Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) in the arrest, imprisonment and alleged torture of Abousfian Abdelrazik will be probed by the Security Intelligence Review Committee. The probe may not get under way until next year. Although CSIS has protested its innocence in Mr. Abdelrazik's case – going so far as to publicly post a letter on its website insisting it had nothing to do with his arrest. However, Federal Court Justice Russel Zinn found CSIS to be complicit in the detention of Mr. Abdelrazik by the Sudanese authorities in 2003.

**9 August**

*International Relations*  
*Canada, United States,*  
*Mexico*  
*North America*  
*Leaders’ Summit*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with Mexican President Felipe Calderón and American President Barack Obama at the North American Leaders' Summit in Guadalajara, Mexico. The Prime Minister is joined at the summit by Minister of Public Safety Peter Van Loan and Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas) Peter Kent. The leaders focus on four themes: promoting economic recovery and North American competitiveness; cooperating on clean energy and climate change; addressing public safety issues including security and the H1N1 influenza outbreak; and regional and global issues.

**10 August**

*International Relations*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces \$434,000 in funding to train Mexico's police force in efforts to help the country in its struggle to

*Canada, Mexico  
federal funding*

suppress its increasingly powerful drug cartels.

**11 August**

*International Relations  
Canada, Pakistan  
federal funding*

International Co-operations Minister Bev Oda announces that Canada will send another \$25 million to help Pakistanis who have fled Taliban violence. The United Nations estimates that more than two million people in Pakistan have been displaced by the fighting. The aid that Canada provides will be distributed through United Nations agencies, the Red Cross, Save the Children, and CARE.

**11 August**

*International Relations  
Canada, United States,  
Mexico  
North America  
Leaders' Summit*

A declaration signed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, United States President Barack Obama and Mexican President Felipe Calderon in Guadalajara, Mexico commits the three governments to work together on climate-change issues, including the construction of their emissions-trading systems. The U.S. has agreed to work with Canada and Mexico to develop a North American carbon market that would allow Canadian emitters to meet some portion of their targets through purchasing credits in the NAFTA marketplace. The agreement by leaders from the three countries could help keep down compliance costs for Canadian emitters, while expanding the market for renewable energy companies and others that create carbon credits with projects in Canada.

**14 August**

*International Relations  
Canada, China  
China visit*

Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, concludes a series of meetings with senior members of the Chinese government during a Canadian mission to China from August 10 to August 14, 2009. The mission deepened the economic relationships between Canada and China and highlighted the strength of the Canadian financial system and financial institutions. Minister Flaherty's delegation included Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney, Superintendent of Financial Institutions Julie Dickson, other key Canadian government officials and senior financial industry executives.

**22 August**

*International Relations  
Canada, Brazil  
Brazil visit*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, concludes a two-day visit to Brazil where he worked to strengthen Canada's economic presence in this country. In 2008, Canadian exports to Brazil totalled \$2.6 billion, a 70 percent increase over the previous year. Key exports to Brazil include fertilizers, mineral fuels and oils, salt, sulphur, cement, machinery, paper and paperboard.

**4 September**

*International Relations  
Canada, China  
Canadian Trade Office*

Gerald Keddy, Parliamentary Secretary to Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, concludes a visit to India, where he opened a new Canadian trade office in Kolkata, a dynamic business, transportation and financial hub. With existing trade offices in Hyderabad, New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Chandigarh, this network will help to provide advice to help Canadian companies take advantage of trade and investment opportunities.

**24 September**

*International Relations  
Abdelrazik affair  
Lawsuit*

Abousfian Abdelrazik sues the Canadian government for \$24 million and Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon for \$3 million for Canada's role in his arrest, six year exile and alleged torture in Sudan and for violating his constitutional right to come home. The lawsuit seeks more than double the \$10.5 million the Harper government paid Maher Arar, the Canadian tortured in Syria.

**23 September**

*International Relations  
United Nations  
Canada Walk- out*

Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon and the Canadian delegation walk out as Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, began speaking to the United Nations Wednesday night. This was followed by diplomats from the United States and other countries. Mr. Cannon said the walkout was necessary because of the Iranian President's disregard for human rights, his violation of UN Security Council resolutions on nuclear non-proliferation, his anti-Semitic attacks and his "erratic behaviour in terms of denying the Holocaust."

**20 October**

*International Relations  
Canada, Afghanistan  
Afghan elections*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper warns Afghan President Harmid Karzai that he must respect his country's electoral laws, after a United Nations-sponsored probe into the presidential election threw out so many fraudulent votes. A new vote now appears inevitable. The Prime Minister urged President Karzai to maintain commitment to the constitutional democratic process in Afghanistan.

**6 November**

*International Relations  
Afghanistan Mission*

Walter Natynczyk, Canada's Chief of the Defence Staff, orders commanders to begin plans for 2011 troop pullout from Afghanistan. Parliament has mandated that the military component of the mission end in 2011. However, Defence Minister Peter MacKay refuses to rule out the possibility of keeping support troops in the country after the end of the 2011 deadline.

**16 November**

*International Relations  
Harper visits India*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper visits India. During his tour he visits a number of historic sites. Critics have suggested that Harper is visiting India because Indo Canadians of different backgrounds inhabit some of the most important swing ridings in the Toronto and Vancouver areas.

**20 November**

*International Relations  
Afghan prisoners*

The Canadian government rejects Richard Colvin's claim that Canada was complicit in the torture of captured Afghan prisoners. Defence Minister Peter MacKay rejects opposition calls for a probe into Mr. Colvin's charges that Canada's soldiers handed over Afghan prisoners with the knowledge they were likely tortured by local interrogators.

**1 December**

*International Relations  
Canada, China  
Pork export*

China reopens their markets to Canadian pork exporters. Prime Minister Harper, Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture, and Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, will be in China meeting with their Chinese counterparts as part of a mission to create and expand new market opportunities for Canadian producers.

**1 December**  
*International Relations*  
*World Trade*  
*Organization*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, reaffirms Canada's commitment to strengthening the World Trade Organization in order to increase global trade. The announcement follows high-level talks in Geneva with his WTO counterparts from 152 countries.

**4 December**  
*International Relations*  
*Foreign Ministers'*  
*Meeting*  
*Berlin*

Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, concludes his participation in a NATO foreign ministers meeting in Brussels that addressed a number of key security issues. During this meeting, Minister Cannon discussed the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan with Canada's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) partners as well as with Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Ranjin Dadfar Spanta.

**10 December**  
*International Relations*  
*Afghanistan Mission*  
*Canada's Quartely*  
*Report*

Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade, Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Afghanistan, releases the Government of Canada's sixth quarterly report on Canada's engagement in Afghanistan. Highlights of the sixth quarterly report include the August 20 presidential and provincial council elections and the arrival of a significant number of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

**25 December**  
*International Relations*  
*Liu Xiaobo affair*

Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, issues a statement denouncing the 11-year prison sentence given to Chinese intellectual and dissident Liu Xiaobo by the Beijing Municipal No. 1 Intermediate People's Court.

## **MUNICIPALITIES**

**27 July**  
*Municipalities*  
*Toronto*  
*City Workers' Strike*

A month-long strike in Toronto ends with two of Toronto's largest unions holding on to key benefits from the cash-strapped municipality. The three-year deal preserves benefits for nearly 30,000 current workers – including a hot-button bankable sick-day scheme - and also includes modest wage gains. The deal ends a 36-day strike that brought garbage collection to a halt and shut summer camps, libraries and swimming pools. It was the longest labour dispute in the city's history.

**7 August**  
*Municipalities*  
*Toronto*  
*TTC*

Bob Dechert, Member of Parliament for Mississauga Erindale, Ontario, Transportation Minister Jim Bradley, Toronto Transit Commission chair Adam Giambrone and York Regional chair Bill Fisch announce that a contract has been awarded to the Toronto company LOVAT Inc. for the purchase of four tunnel boring machines for the Toronto-York Spadina subway extension. The total contract value is approximately \$58.4 million and will generate manufacturing jobs in the Greater Toronto Area.

**28 September***Municipalities**Huntsville**G8 Summit*

Claude Doughty, the Mayor of Huntsville, puts thousands of dollars on his personal credit card to order steel for a local infrastructure project required for hosting the Group of Eight world leaders in June. Mr. Doughty knew that he risked supplier delays if he did not order the steel in January, which would leave the building unfinished by the G8 summit. When the funding had not been approved he put down a security deposit to set the first phase of the project in motion.

**30 October***Municipalities**Quebec**Municipal elections*

Gérald Tremblay wins the Montreal Mayor race with a lead of 17,548 votes over Ms. Harel. The two-term mayor had 37 percent of the votes, compared to 33 percent for Ms. Harel. Elections in hundreds of municipalities across Quebec also took place on Sunday, including Quebec City where incumbent Regis Labeaume was re-elected with a convincing majority.

**5 March***Municipalities**Federation of**Canadian Municipalities**Bottled water*

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has taken a stand against bottled water. The group asked Canadian cities and towns Saturday to phase out the sale and purchase of bottled water on municipal property. Twenty-seven Canadian municipalities have already phased out the sale of bottled water on their property. Ontario's provincial association of municipalities has also encouraged its members to use public water, and 21 Canadian universities and colleges have created bottle-free zones.

**PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL POLITICS****4 January***Provincial Politics**Quebec**Guay steps down*

Richard Guay steps down after only 4 months in the position as chief executive officer of Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec. He will, however, remain as a “strategic adviser” to the fund.

**8 January***Provincial Politics**Saskatchewan**Cabinet shuffle*

Rodney MacDonald, Nova Scotia's premier, shifts his veteran cabinet ministers into new jobs. Mr. MacDonald said it has been more than two years since his last shuffle and the changes will bring new ideas to a number of departments.

**3 February***Provincial Politics**Ontario**Reduced government  
spending*

Dalton McGuinty announces a reduction in government spending because of “significant” deficits in Ontario. The \$12 billion infrastructure program for the auto sector alone will put the province into debt. McGuinty’s primary focus is on the economy but he says that the recovery will be very slow. Although he did not give a dollar figure to the total amount he did say, “It will be a significant, multiyear deficit.”

**16 February***Provincial Politics*

*Lieutenant-Governor* Steven Point, *on behalf of Premier Gordon Campbell*, gives a Speech from the Throne promising to combat poverty,



*British Columbia  
Throne Speech*

drug addiction and mental-health issues in the country's most impoverished neighbourhood, the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. For more information visit:

[http://www.gov.bc.ca/premier/media\\_gallery/speeches/2009/feb/state\\_of\\_the\\_economy\\_update\\_2009\\_02\\_02\\_90234\\_M\\_1.html](http://www.gov.bc.ca/premier/media_gallery/speeches/2009/feb/state_of_the_economy_update_2009_02_02_90234_M_1.html).

**24 February**  
*Provincial Politics  
Quebec  
ADQ*

Action Démocratique du Québec Leader Mario Dumont steps down as leader to accept a job in the private sector in Montreal after spending almost his entire adult life in active politics. For close to 15 years, the ADQ's fortunes have been linked to its leader. Mr. Dumont was a founding member of the ADQ in 1994. The ADQ is expected to select a new leader quickly.

**6 March**  
*Provincial Politics  
Ontario  
By-elections*

Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory loses the by-election held in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, a solidly Conservative riding since 1994, to local school trustee Rick Johnson. The loss has brought an end to John Tory's political career.

**7 March**  
*Provincial Politics  
New Democratic  
Party  
Leadership race*

Andrea Horwath is elected the new Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party. She prevailed on the third ballot of a leadership convention, taking 60.4 percent of the vote. Her challenger, Peter Tabuns, won 39.6 percent. Ms. Horwath is the first woman to lead the Ontario NDP and only the second female leader of a major party in provincial history.

**24 March**  
*Provincial Politics  
Ontario  
Infrastructure Projects*

Premier Dalton McGuinty announces that his government has earmarked \$15.1 billion for infrastructure projects during the fiscal year beginning on April 1 and another \$17.4 billion next year. The spending includes Ontario's \$5 billion share of the federal government's \$12 billion infrastructure fund. The infrastructure funding is mostly for transportation, hospitals and schools and it will create more than 300,000 jobs. Mr. McGuinty said the infrastructure spending projects have been factored into the deficit of \$18 billion that the province is facing for the fiscal years ending March 31, 2009, and 2010.

**25 March**  
*Provincial Politics  
Manitoba  
By-election*

Bill Blaikie wins Manitoba by-election for Winnipeg-Elmwood. Mr. Blaikie was the country's longest-serving active Member of Parliament when he decided not to run for re-election last fall, ending a 29-year stretch in Ottawa. He returned to public life when Premier Gary Doer approached him to run for the legislature seat.

**25 March**  
*Provincial Politics  
Ontario  
HST*

Dalton McGuinty's Ontario government harmonizes the 5% GST and 8% PST tax. The harmonized tax will take effect July 1, 2010.

**1 April**

*Territorial Politics  
Nunavut  
Ten year anniversary*

Nunavut, the most recent province of Confederation, turns 10 today. John Amagoalik, a veteran Inuk leader, began calling for an Inuit homeland in the early 1970s and later played a key role in the historic land-claims settlement that led to the creation of Nunavut. Nunavut is spread over one-fifth of Canada's land mass and three time zones.

**2 April**

*Provincial Politics  
Ontario  
Toronto Transit*

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty offers Toronto's mayor, David Miller, \$9 billion for transit only two days after McGuinty removed municipal politicians, including Toronto Mayor David Miller and York Region chairman Bill Fisch, from his Toronto-area transportation body. The Premier announced billions - originally pledged before the 2007 election - for the two politicians' key public-transit projects, which they say will transform the Toronto area. For Mr. Miller, the highlight is a \$4.6 billion, 31-kilometre, partially tunnelled light-rail line across Eglinton Avenue from Kennedy subway station to Pearson airport, the central component of his Transit City light-rail plan. In all, Toronto was promised \$7.2 billion, with the province paying the entire capital costs of the projects.

**3 April**

*Provincial Politics  
Prince Edward Island  
Auditor General  
Report on immigration*

In his annual report, Prince Edward Island Auditor-General Colin Younker announces that the immigrant investor plan needs ethics reform. While the program had a well-intentioned scheme that did attract immigrants, who agreed to invest tens of thousands of dollars in local businesses for the right to settle on the island, it had limited oversight, was subject to bureaucratic interference and did not follow its own rules.

**7 April**

*Provincial Politics  
Ontario  
Auto industry*

Premier Dalton McGuinty announces that his government will not be funding auto-parts or funneling cash to companies, many of which are on the brink of collapse. However, he said, his government is prepared to help auto parts makers indirectly. General Motors of Canada Ltd. and Chrysler Canada Inc. will each be required to use a portion of any loans they receive from the province to pay their suppliers.

**10 April**

*Provincial Politics  
British Columbia  
Electoral reform*

British Columbia announces that they will be tackling electoral reform. The single transferable vote (STV) could replace the system currently used and put the westernmost province at the forefront of a Canadian electoral revolution.

**28 April**

*Provincial Politics  
British Columbia  
Solicitor General  
resigns*

British Columbia's solicitor general, John van Dongen, resigns after announcing his driving record. Van Dongen received nine speeding tickets in five years and had his drivers license suspended. Van Dongen is the second Liberal solicitor general to resign his post, as he replaced John Les when Les quit last spring due to a police investigation into land deals. Housing Minister Rich Coleman has now taken over the position.

**1 May**

*Provincial Politics*  
*Ontario*  
*Driving under*  
*the influence*

Ontario's new driving under the influence law comes into effect - a driver caught with a blood alcohol level from 0.05 to 0.08, known as the "warn range," will have their licence suspended for three days. Drivers caught with a similar level of alcohol in their system a second time, will have their license suspended for seven days and be required to attend an alcohol education program. Drivers caught a third time will have their licence suspended for 30 days, have to complete a remedial alcohol treatment program and, for six months can drive only vehicles that have an ignition interlock device installed.

**13 May**

*Provincial Politics*  
*British Columbia*  
*General election*

The Liberal Party wins a majority in the British Columbia provincial election while a referendum on implementing a new single transferable vote (STV) fell short of the 60 percent needed to be successful. Gordon Campbell becomes the first premier in a quarter-century to win three consecutive elections.

**29 May**

*Provincial Politics*  
*Alberta*  
*Human Rights*

Bill 44, which proposes amendments to Alberta's Human Rights, Citizenship, and Multiculturalism Act, contains two significant changes. The first adds sexual orientation to proscribed grounds of discrimination. This would bring Alberta's human rights legislation into conformity with a Supreme Court of Canada ruling that "read in" sexual orientation after it had been deliberately omitted three times by the Legislative Assembly in Edmonton. The amendment has been widely praised. The second, Section 11 of the new act, is more controversial. It requires that parents be notified whenever instructional materials are taught dealing "explicitly with religion, sexuality or sexual orientation." If parents object in writing, the student can be excused from class.

**10 June**

*Provincial Politics*  
*Nova Scotia*  
*General election*

The New Democrats winning 31 of 52 seats in the Nova Scotia election will form a majority government in Nova Scotia. This is the first time in the province's post-Confederation history that neither the Liberals nor Conservatives will hold power.

**16 June**

*Provincial Politics*  
*Ontario*  
*Education*  
*Full-day Kindergarten*

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty's attempts to put in place an integrated full-day kindergarten and childcare program with the province facing a mounting deficit and opposition from the country's largest teachers' union. Full-day kindergarten has been McGuinty's cornerstone election promise. The government has allocated \$500 million over two years to start phasing in the program, but McGuinty told reporters he did not know how much the plan would cost and how long it will take to fully implement it.

**26 August**

*Provincial Politics*  
*Ontario*  
*Ministry of Children*  
*and Youth Services*

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services produces a health report recommending that Ontario improve access to assisted reproductive technologies. For more information visit:  
<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/infertility/index.aspx>

**28 August**

*Provincial Politics  
Manitoba  
Gary Doer resigns*

Manitoba's Premier Gary Doer resigns after serving 10 years as Manitoba's Premier and 21 years as leader of the Manitoba New Democrats.

**31 August**

*Territorial Politics  
Yukon  
Brad Cathers resigns*

The Yukon government, led by Premier Dennis Fentie is at risk of collapsing after the resignation of the territory's energy minister, Brad Cathers, who says the Premier "lied" to the public in denying that private talks took place regarding selling off the government's energy assets. The decision of Brad Cathers, who was also the Yukon Party's House leader, to sit as an independent reduces Mr. Fentie's government to minority status. As a result, the development could trigger an election this fall, should the opposition parties move a no-confidence motion when the legislature reconvenes.

**2 September**

*Provincial Politics  
Ontario  
OLG*

Michael Gough, the chairman of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG), and the CEO, Kelly McDougald, are fired as the McGuinty government investigates a scandal over spending within the organization on travel and entertaining.

**7 September**

*Provincial Politics  
Ontario  
Personal Expenses  
New rules*

Dalton McGuinty announces tighter rules for free-spending executives before the first question period of the fall session. All expenses from senior management and all of the cabinet ministers, political staff and top Ontario Public Service bureaucrats will be posted online and mandatory expense training and audits of expenses will also be instituted. The Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats allied to accuse McGuinty and Health Minister David Caplan of misleading the Legislature on whether an auditing firm had been hired to probe accounting practices at eHealth.

**16 September**

*Provincial Politics  
Ontario  
By-elections*

Eric Hoskins wins the St. Paul's riding by-election. Hoskin replaces former cabinet minister Michael Bryant who had been in the St. Paul's riding for 10 years. The Liberals now have 72 of the 107 seats in the legislature, the Tories 25 and the NDP 10.

**16 October**

*Provincial Politics  
Ontario  
limited funds*

John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, announces that the government has finite resources. This announcement comes after Ontario cuts funding for two programs- the Self-Employment Benefit program and another that helped local communities conduct labour market research. The Self-Employment Benefit program, which has a budget of \$62 million for this year will not be accepting new applicants this year. A skills retraining program, which was created in 2008 in response to the loss of thousands of jobs in the manufacturing sector, will be funded limitedly.

**30 October**

*Provincial Politics*

Newfoundland Premier Danny Williams warns that Hydro-Québec's takeover of New Brunswick Power is a virtual power monopoly in Eastern

*Newfoundland and  
Labrador  
New Brunswick Power  
Hydro-Québec*

Canada. On October 29th a tentative \$10 billion deal was reached with New Brunswick Power and Hydro-Québec. Hydro-Québec will spend \$4.7 billion for the assets of New Brunswick Power and also take on its debt of approximately \$5 billion.

**9 November**  
*Provincial Politics  
Ontario  
George Smitherman  
resigns*

George Smitherman, Ontario's Deputy Premier and Energy Minister, announces that he will leave Dalton McGuinty's cabinet to run for Toronto's mayoralty in November, 2010. Mr. McGuinty congratulates Mr. Smitherman for reducing wait times in hospitals and spearheading the Green Energy Act that will help create 50,000 jobs while he worked for him.

**9 December**  
*Provincial Politics  
Ontario  
Harmonized sales tax*

Legislation to merge the GST and PST to a single 13 percent sales tax in Ontario passes its third and final reading. The legislation includes cuts to corporate and income taxes that take effect January 1, and one-time rebates of up to \$1,000 for some families to offset the impact of the HST. British Columbia is also set to merge its provincial sales tax with the GST on July 1, something Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador have already done.

## **SENATE**

**8 January**  
*Senate  
New appointments*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper drops his reliance on confidence votes and moves towards stacking the Senate with Tories. Breaking his initial vow to appoint senators in only rare circumstances, Mr. Harper appointed 18 new Senators last month.

**18 February**  
*Senate  
Reform  
Limited terms*

The Harper government introduces new Senate reform legislation that would oblige the new Conservative-appointed senators to resign from the Senate after an eight-year term. Minister of State for Democratic Reform Steven Fletcher said in an interview that new legislation would put the limit on all senators appointed since the October, 2008, election and into the future. Currently, senators can serve in the upper house until the age of 75. Previous legislation aimed at imposing limits on Senate terms died prior to the last election, with the Senate questioning the constitutionality of the idea.

**7 May**  
*Senate  
Senate Ethics Act*

Steven Fletcher, Minister of State introduces legislation to build on the measures brought forward in the *Federal Accountability Act* to increase accountability and strengthen democracy in Canada. The *Senate Ethics Act* amends the *Parliament of Canada Act* to eliminate the separate office of Senate Ethics Officer and bring the Senate and House of Commons ethics codes under the jurisdiction of a single, independent Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner. The government has committed to

reforming the Senate by limiting Senate terms to eight years, giving Canadians a say over who represents them in the Upper House.

**28 May**

*Senate*

*Reform*

*Term Limits*

Steven Fletcher, Minister of State (Democratic Reform), reaffirms the Government's commitment to Senate reform and announces the introduction of legislation in the Senate to establish term limits for new senators. This "Senate Term Limits" bill will cap the tenure of new senators at one term of eight years. The bill also provides that the eight-year term limit will apply to all senators appointed after the October 2008 general election, including the 18 recently appointed senators. The eight year terms will begin once the bill receives Royal Assent.

**27 August**

*Senate*

*Appointments*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper fills nine vacancies in the Senate, including Jacques Demers, a former Montreal Canadiens hockey coach, and former journalist Linda Frum. The Liberal Party has 53 seats in the 105-seat Red Chamber, while the Conservative Party has 46. The other six seats are held by independents and Progressive Conservatives.

**9 October**

*Senate*

*Sentencing Legislation*

Several Liberal senators say the legislation concerning how much time to deduct from prison sentences for time already served, supported by Michael Ignatieff, is too restrictive. Judges may award twice the time served in recognition that jails are less pleasant places than federal prisons and that the time served does not count toward parole. Claiming that defence lawyers are abusing the practice by drawing out trials, all 10 provincial Attorneys-Generals asked the federal government to restrict it. Legislation brought forward by the Conservative government earlier this year to do just that sailed through the House with unanimous consent.