
Chronology of Events July 1992 – June 1993*

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1 July 1992

Taxation

Personal income taxes rise in British Columbia by one percent to 52.5 percent of federal tax payable, in Ontario by 1.5 percent to 54.5 percent and in Newfoundland by 2.5 percent to 64.5 percent of federal tax. The tax increases are expected to generate \$900 million over the next two years.

Analysts fear that provincial as well as municipal tax increases across Canada will have a direct impact on consumer spending and further delay economic recovery.

2 July 1992

*Fisheries –
Northern Cod
Moratorium*

Fisheries Minister John Crosbie announces a two-year shutdown of the northern cod fishery off Newfoundland's east coast to protect dwindling stocks and allow the resources time to recover. The moratorium leaves about 19,000 fishermen and plant workers out of work in the already depressed region. The northern cod fishery, worth \$700 million, provides 31,000 jobs in Atlantic Canada. Ottawa plans to provide emergency aid.

* The author would like to thank Dwight Herperger for his much appreciated assistance with entries concerning constitutional reform.

7 July 1992
*Constitutional
 Reform*

Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark and nine provincial premiers (excluding Quebec) reach an agreement deal after a last ditch, three-day effort to save the almost four month process of multilateral talks on constitutional reform; the deal, presented as a response to Quebec's demands for offers on renewed federalism, ultimately hinged on agreement on a modified Triple-E Senate (elected, equal, effective).

The agreement gives each province eight seats (Quebec currently has 24) and the territories two seats each in the reformed Senate. Aboriginal representation is to be determined later.

To compensate for the loss of seats by some provinces in the Senate, the Commons would be expanded to better reflect population distribution. Ontario would get ten more seats, British Columbia and Quebec three and Alberta one.

Other elements of the agreement:

- Quebec would be recognized as a distinct society;
- The aboriginal inherent right of self-government would be enshrined;
- All provinces would have a veto on amendments to federal institutions, but not on the issue of new provinces;
- Provinces would have exclusive jurisdiction over manpower training, culture, forestry, mining, housing, recreation, tourism and urban affairs;
- There would be a commitment to dismantle inter-provincial barriers;
- There would be a statement of principles about social programs; and
- Quebec's right to three Supreme Court seats would be enshrined.

9 July 1992
*Constitutional
 Reform – Quebec*

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa makes his first official response to the 7 July agreement, identifying positive elements in the constitutional package and leaving open the possibility of this province's return to the negotiating table; at the same time, Bourassa warns that the agreement, particularly the provisions relating to the Senate, would be "difficult to sell in Quebec" and are a "serious

setback" for the province, and that changes would be needed; other areas of concern identified by the premier were provisions relating to the division of powers and aboriginal self-government.

10 July 1992
*Constitutional
Reform*

At a news conference, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney hails the deal as containing "fundamental elements of an agreement" and says that Quebec could not expect much more from a constitutional settlement; indicating that the agreement would need some fine tuning, the prime minister cancels plans to recall Parliament 15 July to consider the constitutional deal.

14 July 1992
*Constitutional
Reform - Ontario*

Ontario Premier Bob Rae announces that he will not return to the constitutional bargaining table unless Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa is present as an active participant.

15 July 1992
*Constitutional
Reform*

Following a wave of criticism in Quebec towards the 7 July constitutional agreement, Prime Minister Mulroney appears to retreat from his remarks five days earlier by noting that his government would not support "any initiative whatsoever that would have the effect of isolating Quebec," particularly on the issue of Senate reform; in contrast, Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark maintains that there will be no major structural changes to the proposal for an equal Senate, and or to other elements of the agreement.

17 July 1992
*Fisheries -
Compensation*

Fisheries Minister John Crosbie announces that fishermen left jobless as a result of the moratorium on northern cod fishing will receive up to \$406 a week depending on the average amount of their unemployment insurance benefits for the last three years. The payments are part of a plan that will offer retraining and early retirement to people wishing to leave the industry. The government hopes to reduce the number of people depending on the fishery for their livelihood by 5,000 over the next two years. Crosbie would not reveal the expected cost of the program, saying only it would be "well in excess" of \$500 million.

22 July 1992
Energy - Quebec

The Cree of Quebec file a court order designed to stop Hydro-Québec from continuing construction on its Laforge 1 hydroelectric development. Hydro-Québec

maintains the project is not subject to environmental procedures specified in the 1975 James Bay agreement because it is part of the La Grande complex agreed to by the Cree. The Cree argue that Hydro-Québec made significant changes to the project since the 1975 agreement. Work on the \$1.6 billion project began in 1988 and is expected to be completed late next year.

28 July 1992
*Industrial Policy –
Ontario*

The Ontario NDP government presents its new industrial strategy. The strategy identifies six "competitive fundamentals" the government wants to advance through its spending and policy proposals. These include:

- increasing the technological and innovative capacities of Ontario companies;
- encouraging companies to place more of their "home-base" activities in Ontario;
- developing closer cooperation among companies in each sector while improving their international potential.

29 July 1992
*Constitutional
Reform – Quebec*

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa announces that he will drop his province's two-year boycott of constitutional talks and attend a lunch meeting of all first ministers at Harrington Lake to discuss the progress of the multilateral talks.

The Quebec premier cites several conditions for his return to the bargaining table, including: clarification regarding the creation of new provinces, changes to the provisions on a distinct society clause and an improved deal on immigration.

4 August 1992
*Constitutional
Reform –
Federal-Provincial*

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and all the provincial premiers, including Quebec, meet at Harrington Lake to discuss how to proceed with the constitutional talks. Aboriginal leaders protest their exclusion from the talks.

12 August 1992
*Free Trade – North
America*

Officials from Canada, United States and Mexico reach a tentative agreement on a "North American Free Trade Agreement." The deal, agreed to in Washington, provides for the phase-out of investment and trade barriers on thousands of items over the next ten years. The new agreement leaves intact the Canada-U.S. auto pact and at the same time opens up Mexico's highly protected auto market to duty free imports following a ten-year

phase in period. In the textile and clothing industries Canada agrees to stricter rules which require more yarns and fabrics to be produced in North America.

Reaction to the agreement is mixed. Trade Minister Michael Wilson calls it a "good agreement for all three countries"; Bob White, president of the Canadian Labour Congress vows an all out fight against the agreement; and Ontario NDP Premier Bob Rae calls the agreement a "sell out" of Canada's economy.

17 August 1992
*Health Policy –
Saskatchewan*

Saskatchewan announces plans to introduce a "new era" in health-care delivery. Health Minister Louise Simard presents a "conceptual framework" that will shift the responsibility for the \$1.6 billion health budget from the province to 20 or 30 newly created regional health boards. The province also plans to merge several government departments, such as health, environment and social services, to promote better health and disease prevention as well as to cut costs.

22 August 1992
*Constitutional
Reform*

An agreement-in-principle is reached on a sweeping package of constitutional reforms after five days of intense, behind-closed-doors bargaining in Ottawa among all eleven first ministers and territorial and aboriginal leaders.

28 August 1992
*Constitutional
Reform –
Charlottetown
Agreement*

Prime Minister Mulroney meets with the ten provincial premiers, two territorial leaders and four aboriginal leaders in Charlottetown to put the finishing touches on the constitutional agreement reached a week earlier, and announces at a press conference that all the participants in the multilateral talks are leaning towards a national referendum.

Some of the provisions of the Charlottetown agreement are:

- An elected and equal Senate;
- 18 more Commons seats for Ontario and Quebec;
- Reduction of Senate seats to 62, six from each province and one from each territory;
- Senate veto for legislation involving natural resource taxation, and ratification authority over certain government appointments;

- A Senate double-majority (i.e., of both French and English-speaking Senators) requirement for legislation affecting French language and culture;
- The power to force a joint sitting of both houses by a majority vote against Commons bills;
- The recognition of an inherent right of aboriginal self-government, including provision for the courts to mandate progress towards implementation if negotiations are delayed;
- A set of principles outlining the social and economic union;
- Confirmation of provincial control over forestry, mining, tourism, recreation, housing, municipal and urban affairs, job training and culture. Federal control remains over national cultural institutions, and unemployment insurance;
- Provisions for constitutionally-protected agreements concerning immigration and regional development;
- Harmonization of federal and provincial rules on telecommunications.

The agreement must still be ratified by all governments; and legislation in British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec requires these provinces to hold their own referendums on the proposed constitutional amendments.

There appears to be wide support for the agreement across the country. With the exception of Parti Québécois most federal, business and union leaders pledge their support.

4 September 1992
Aboriginal Peoples
 – *Self-government*

In a step towards self-government, the Inuit of Northern Quebec assume control over the federal government's local employment and manpower training programs. It is the first time Ottawa has transferred such power to a regional government controlled by Aboriginal Peoples. The Inuit are currently negotiating with Quebec to transfer administration of provincial manpower programs as well.

8 September 1992
Constitutional
 Reform – *Quebec*

The Quebec National Assembly amends Bill 150 to allow for a referendum vote on the Charlottetown Accord, rather than on sovereignty as originally envisaged in the legislation.

9 September 1992
*Party Leadership –
Alberta*

Alberta Premier Don Getty stuns the country by announcing his resignation from government, with plans to step down this fall. Getty said he wanted to devote his time to selling the Charlottetown agreement in the referendum campaign without any question of his motives.

10 September 1992
*Constitutional
Reform –
Referendum*

The House of Commons, in a vote of 233-12, approves legislation for a national referendum on the question: "Do you agree that the Constitution of Canada should be renewed on the basis of the agreement reached on 28 August 1992?"

11 September 1992
*Maritime provinces
– Cooperation*

In an effort to reduce the size and cost of government the three Maritime Provinces sign several cooperation agreements in Halifax. The three governments agree to harmonize their business taxes, jointly promote exports and tourism, harmonize their agriculture departments, deregulate the trucking and bus industries, and study the removal of barriers to job mobility.

The premiers of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island make it clear that a full Maritime Union is not being considered.

13 September 1992
*Constitutional
Reform –
Referendum*

National Action Committee on the Status of Women President Judy Rebick announces that her organization will campaign for a "No" vote in the national referendum.

14 September 1992
*Education – New
Brunswick*

The New Brunswick government announces plans to spend an extra \$61.1 million to improve education in the province. The additional funds are aimed at giving students more testing in core subjects, smaller classes, improved curriculum content in subjects such as math, sciences and languages, as well as providing more support for remedial programs and libraries.

15 September 1992
*Constitutional
Reform –
Referendum*

The Senate gives final approval to the wording of the question for the national referendum, clearing the way for a campaign for the national vote; federal law will govern the vote in the nine provinces and two territories, while Quebec legislation will guide the vote there; federally, there will be an unlimited number of ("Yes" and "No") committees with relatively flexible spending limits, while in Quebec, there will be two umbrella committees with fixed spending limits.

- 16 September 1992
Constitutional Reform – Referendum
- A taped telephone conversation between two senior Quebec constitutional advisors (outgoing Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Diane Wilhelmy, and Andre Tremblay, a senior advisor to the premier), is leaked to the press. The conversation contends that the Charlottetown agreement is “humiliating” to Quebec and that Premier Bourassa “caved in” during negotiations. A court injunction obtained by Wilhelmy two days earlier did little to prevent the leaks and did not apply to publication of the transcripts of the conversation outside the province.
- 16 September 1992
Social Assistance
- A bill to end the family allowance, known as the “baby bonus,” passes in the Commons by a vote of 99-62. It will be replaced by a system designed to give more assistance to the working poor. Many fear that the bill marks the beginning of the end for universal social programs in Canada.
- 17 September 1992
Health Policy – Funding
- Canada’s health ministers meet in St. John’s and call for a national information network to be set up. The network’s mandate would be to analyze how well health dollars are spent, how costs can be cut, and services improved.
- 21 September 1992
Constitutional Reform – Referendum
- The national referendum campaign officially begins.
- 21 September 1992
Aboriginal Peoples – Land Claims – British Columbia
- The British Columbia Treaty Commission is established. The committee will work to facilitate negotiations, with various aboriginal groups, involving land claims in British Columbia.
- 22 September 1992
Aboriginal Peoples – Land Claims – Saskatchewan
- Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Premier Roy Romanow sign a \$450 million land deal with Saskatchewan Indian Bands. The money provided by both Ottawa and Saskatchewan will enable bands to purchase between 170,000 and 640,000 hectares of new lands for reserve status.

- 26 September 1992
Constitutional Reform – Referendum
Angus Reid/Southam News releases a poll indicating significant loss of support for the “Yes” side across the country — particularly in British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec.
- 29 September 1992
Constitutional Reform – Referendum
In a dramatic gesture Prime Minister Brian Mulroney rips up a list of Quebec’s gains while speaking in Sherbrooke, Quebec.
- 1 October 1992
Constitutional Reform – Referendum
Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau gives a speech at Maison du Egg Roll in Montreal in which he urges Canadians to vote “No” in the 26 October referendum. The speech is seen as a significant boost to the “No” forces in the referendum campaign.
- 1 October 1992
Aboriginal Peoples – Justice
The government of Nova Scotia and native leaders sign an agreement which will allow some of the minor criminal cases to be tried by a native panel on the Indian Brook reserve. The agreement is seen as a step toward a native justice system, recommended by a provincial inquiry into the case of Donald Marshall Jr., a Micmac wrongly convicted of murder.
- 7 October 1992
Free Trade – North America
Trade ministers from Canada, the United States and Mexico initial the legal text of the North American Free Trade Agreement in San Antonio, Texas. Prime Minister Mulroney attends the ceremony and says that “the North American free-trade agreement provides us all with a pathway to prosperity.”
- 7 October 1992
Aboriginal Peoples – Royal Commission
The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples releases a report entitled *Framing the Issues* in which it calls for a complete restructuring of relations between natives and non-natives in Canada. The report stresses that aboriginal self-government is a crucial first step towards reconciliation.
- 10 October 1992
Constitutional Reform – Charlottetown Agreement
The legal text of the Charlottetown Accord is released in Quebec, quieting allegations that vital information was being withheld from voters and fears that the original Charlottetown agreement was being watered down; the text was released early in Quebec to accommodate a televised debate between Premier Bourassa and PQ leader Jacques Parizeau.

13 October 1992
*Constitutional
 Reform –
 Charlottetown
 Agreement*

The 51-page "best efforts" legal text of the Charlottetown Accord is released across Canada. At the same time two political accords, which were included as part of the Charlottetown Accord, are made public by Ottawa; the first dealing with aboriginal representation on the Supreme Court, and the second relating to the provision of land and resources to Métis communities. The accords are not legally binding.

18 October 1992
*Constitutional
 Reform –
 Aboriginal Peoples*

Assembly of First Nations chiefs meet in Vancouver, inviting Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark and premiers Harcourt, Romanow and Rae to speak; they fail to provide their support for the "Yes" campaign, in contradiction of the position taken by the AFN Grand Chief Ovide Mercredi.

26 October 1992
*Constitutional
 Reform –
 Referendum*

The Canada-wide referendum vote is held, with an overall vote of 44.6 percent for the Charlottetown Accord and 54.4 percent against. A majority "No" vote is delivered in six of the ten provinces. Percentage results by province and territory are:

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
Newfoundland	62.9	36.5
Prince Edward Island	73.6	25.9
Nova Scotia	48.5	51.1
New Brunswick	61.3	38.0
Quebec	42.4	55.4
Ontario	49.8	49.6
Manitoba	37.8	61.6
Saskatchewan	44.5	55.2
Alberta	39.7	60.1
British Columbia	31.7	68.0
Yukon	43.4	56.1
Northwest Territories	60.6	38.7

29 October 1992
Economic Policy

A federal advisory committee, appointed by Prime Minister Mulroney to make recommendations concerning the economy, co-chaired by David Camus and Marie-Josée Drouin, presents its report. The study, entitled *Inventing our Future — An Action Plan for Canada's Prosperity*, says Canada should trim federal and provincial deficits through spending cuts, not tax increases.

30 October 1992
*Party Leadership –
Prince Edward
Island*

Joe Ghiz resigns as premier of Prince Edward Island after holding office for six years.

30 October 1992
*Aboriginal Peoples
– Land Claims*

Inuit, federal and territorial leaders sign a political accord in Iqaluit for the division of the Northwest Territories and the creation of a new territory of Nunavut by the end of the century. Ottawa agrees to cover costs of setting up the new territorial government, including training programs to help the Inuit develop the skills and workforce necessary to run the government.

The land agreement would give the Inuit title to 350,000 square kilometres, as well as \$1.15 billion over 14 years.

5 November 1992
*Fiscal Policy –
British Columbia*

In an effort to reduce a mounting deficit of almost \$2.7 billion, British Columbia announces \$83 million in spending cuts. Finance Minister Glen Clark blames his province's financial woes on reduced personal and corporate income tax revenues from Ottawa — about \$500 million below projection this year.

7 November 1992
*Health Policy –
Ontario*

The Ontario Medical Association and the Province of Ontario agree on a cost-cutting agreement. A number of medical services, such as examinations for life insurance, school entrance, motor-vehicle or pilots' licence, and sick notes will now be billed directly to the patient.

12 November 1992
*Aboriginal Peoples
– Land Claims*

Referendum results, in which the Inuit of the eastern Arctic endorse by 69 percent the proposed land claim settlement and the creation of a new territory of Nunavut, are released in Iqaluit.

12 November 1992
*Telecommunications
– Manitoba*

Manitoba becomes the ninth province to allow long-distance telephone competition. Saskatchewan remains the only province where competition for long-distance telephone service is not allowed.

19 November 1992
*Transportation –
Royal Commission*

The federal Royal Commission on transportation, appointed by Prime Minister Mulroney in October 1989 following public protests over Ottawa's intention to cut Via Rail service by 50 percent, presents its report. The Commission recommends that Canadian governments should phase out their \$5 billion-a-year transportation

subsidies within ten years and make passengers responsible for the full cost of road, rail, water and air travel.

20 November 1992
*Environment –
Quebec*

The Federal Court of Appeal, in a 3-0 decision, rules that federal environmental review regulations cannot be applied retroactively to government decisions made before the regulations came into effect in 1984. The court's decision was made in reference to the \$1.5 billion Eastmain hydroelectric development in northern Quebec. The James Bay Cree, who are seeking the environmental review for Eastmain, say they will appeal.

25 November 1992
*Fisheries –
Compensation*

Federal Fisheries Minister John Crosbie announces that Ottawa will spend about \$5 million on make-work projects designed to help unemployed fishery workers in Quebec and Atlantic Canada qualify for unemployment insurance.

Crosbie also announces that another \$100 million will be made available to older workers, aged 55 to 64, who decide to leave the fishery by the end of the year.

26 November 1992
*Fiscal Policy –
Ontario*

Ontario Treasurer Floyd Laughren announces an expenditure restraint package designed to help bring the province's deficit under control. Ontario's schools, hospitals and municipalities will receive the promised 2 percent increase in their transfer payments for the fiscal year 1993-94 but not the following year. University and college tuition will rise by 7 percent and the implementation of job equity in the public sector will be delayed until 1998. These new measures are expected to save \$600 million in the fiscal year beginning in April 1993 and another \$1.2 billion the following year.

26 November 1992
Environment

Federal and provincial environment ministers meet in Aylmer, Quebec. At the conclusion of a two-day conference they announce a new plan to control national air quality starting next year. The ministers were responding in part to a report released by Pollution Probe claiming that toxic air pollutants are contaminating soils, crops and waterways across Canada.

2 December 1992
Fiscal Policy

Finance Minister Don Mazankowski presents a special economic statement in the Commons. The government is proposing to cut \$8 billion in spending. Taxes are not expected to rise. One widely criticized measure is the

plan to save \$2.5 billion from the unemployment insurance budget by denying benefits to people who quit jobs without just cause or are fired for misconduct. Other cost saving measures proposed by the government:

- a two-year freeze on salaries for federal public servants and judges; and
- a 3 percent cut in government departmental operating budgets for 1993-94.

3 December 1992
*Trade –
Interprovincial*

Provincial trade ministers meet in Toronto and agree to start a negotiating process aimed at dismantling inter-provincial trade barriers by 1995. The ministers plan to meet again in March.

4 December 1992
*Budgets –
Newfoundland*

Newfoundland's Finance Minister Winston Baker presents a mini-budget. Personal income tax will rise 4.5 percent to 69 percent of basic federal tax. Tobacco and gasoline will cost more as will obtaining a driver's licence and registering of vehicles. Newfoundland is hoping that the new measures will help to cut the 1992-93 provincial deficit in half to \$78.6 million.

14 December 1992
Resources

Federal Health Minister Benoît Bouchard and Quebec Energy Minister Lise Bacon announce in Montreal that the Canada-Quebec Agreement on Mineral Development will be extended to 1998. The agreement is expected to pump \$100 million into the depressed sector. Ottawa and Quebec will split the cost.

16 December 1992
*Education –
New Brunswick*

The Senate approves a constitutional resolution guaranteeing English and French communities in New Brunswick the right to their own cultural and educational institutions. (The bilateral Canada-New Brunswick amendment had been part of the Charlottetown Accord set of amendments.)

16 December 1992
*Transportation –
Prince Edward
Island*

Ottawa, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island sign a federal-provincial agreement in Charlottetown for the construction of an \$800 million bridge linking Prince Edward Island to the mainland.

17 December 1992
Fiscal Policy

Canada's finance ministers meet in Ottawa and agree to cut spending for two or three years to control the ever rising deficits. Federal Finance Minister Don Mazankowski fails to persuade his provincial

counterparts to put tax increases on hold. In view of Ottawa's limits on growth in transfer payments to the provinces, for health care, education and welfare, provincial finance ministers feel they have few other options.

17 December 1992
*Free Trade –
North America*

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney signs the North American Free Trade Agreement. In order for the agreement to become law legislation must still be passed in all three countries.

17 December 1992
Energy – Manitoba

Manitoba announces it will not go ahead with its \$5.8 billion Cinawapa dam project. In 1989 Ontario Hydro agreed to buy 1,000 megawatts of electricity, for 22 years beginning in 2000, from Manitoba. Recently, however, demand has decreased and Ontario Hydro, facing financial problems and a surplus of electricity, backed out of the deal.

18 December 1992
Fisheries – Quotas

In an effort to preserve what is left of the groundfishery on the East Coast the federal government further slashes quotas, in some cases by as much as 70 percent, and limits fishing licences. Fisheries Minister John Crosbie says that people forced out of the industry will receive employment training aid but no special compensation.

21 December 1992
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

Speaking at a Quebec City news conference, Parti Québécois Leader Jacques Parizeau predicts that Quebec could become a sovereign country within two and a half years.

23 December 1992
*Fiscal Policy –
Alberta*

Alberta Treasurer Jim Dinning announces that this year's provincial deficit will be \$300 million higher than expected. Dinning blamed the increase on welfare and education costs and a drop in income tax revenues. Alberta is expected to have a \$2.6 billion deficit this year.

23 December 1992
Telecommunications

The Federal Court of Appeal rules that major Canadian telephone companies must pay millions of dollars to enable their competitors to hook up to their systems.

8 January 1993
*Energy –
Aboriginal Peoples
– Quebec*

The Cree of Northern Quebec sign a deal in Montreal with Hydro-Québec. The agreement is designed to compensate the Cree for the social, economic and environmental disruption on their communities of the La Grande

hydroelectric project. The Cree will receive a minimum of \$125 million over 50 years.

13 January 1993
*Aboriginal Peoples
– Land Claims*

The Sahtu Dene of the Great Bear Lake region of the Northwest Territories reach a land-claims agreement with the federal government. The agreement, signed in Yellowknife, will give the Sahtu Dene and Métis 41,437 square kilometres of land, a tax-free payment of \$75 million over 15 years and a share of the government's resource royalties from the southern Mackenzie Valley.

15 January 1993
Energy – Hibernia

Ottawa steps in to increase its share of the \$5.2 billion Hibernia oilfield project in order to keep the project going. Energy Minister Bill McKnight confirms that the federal government will spend \$360 million on an 8.5 percent share in the oilfield, located off the coast of Newfoundland.

19 January 1993
*Energy – British
Columbia*

Premier Mike Harcourt announces that the government of British Columbia will hold public hearings to determine ways to reduce the environmental impact of the \$1 billion Kimano hydroelectric project. Harcourt also emphasizes, however, that the British Columbia government will not stop the completion of the project.

19 January 1993
*Health Policy –
Quebec*

Quebec's Finance Minister Gérard-D. Levesque and Treasury Board President Daniel Johnson release a discussion paper in which they suggest imposing user fees for health services, raising university tuition and school taxes, privatizing Crown holdings, contracting-out services and holding down civil servants' wages and benefits. The measures outlined in the report are designed to attack the provincial deficit which has risen to more than \$4.2 billion this year.

20 January 1993
Labour Training

Federal-provincial ministers meet in Toronto for talks on labour and training issues.

Federal Employment Minister Bernard Valcourt refuses to relinquish control over manpower and job training to the provinces, a move Ottawa agreed to in the Charlottetown Accord, in spite of pressure from Quebec.

22 January 1993
*Social Assistance –
Ontario*

The government of Ontario agrees to take over the costs of general welfare now paid for by municipalities. Municipalities in turn agree to maintain more roads and pay

the \$135 million cost of providing property assessment services. The province will also reduce its grants to municipalities by \$165 million to reflect their savings on welfare.

The change, to take effect next January, will bring the province's share of welfare costs to approximately 70 percent, with the other 30 percent being paid by Ottawa.

25 January 1993
Aboriginal Peoples

The Ontario Court of Appeal rules that Indians in Canada do not have a historical right to bring commercial goods across the U.S. border.

25 January 1993
*Party Leadership –
Prince Edward
Island*

Catherine Callbeck is sworn in as premier of Prince Edward Island, succeeding the retiring Joe Ghiz.

2 February 1993
*Health Policy –
British Columbia*

British Columbia's Health Minister Elizabeth Cull announces major reforms to the province's health-care system. The responsibility for planning and management of the province's \$6 billion yearly budget will now fall to local authorities. Newly created community health councils and regional boards will have the responsibility of deciding which services best meet the needs of the population and which services should be cut. The Health Ministry will continue to set standards and establish core services that all community councils must provide.

3 February 1993
*Fiscal Policy –
British Columbia –
Deficits*

A study commissioned by British Columbia's NDP government shows that Ottawa is "offloading" its financial problems on the provinces contributing to soaring provincial deficits. Federal Finance Minister Don Mazankowski responds by saying that British Columbia is looking for a scapegoat to justify its own out-of-control deficit expected to reach \$2.3 billion this year.

9 February 1993
*Aboriginal Peoples
– Newfoundland*

Federal Minister of Indian Affairs, Tom Siddon announces that the federal government will pay for the relocation of the Innu village of Davis Inlet in northern Labrador. In 1967 the Newfoundland government moved the community to its remote location. Davis Inlet has been progressively devastated by poverty and suicide.

24 February 1993
*Party Leadership –
Federal*

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announces his plans to resign in June after a successor is chosen to lead the Progressive Conservative Party.

25 February 1993
*Fiscal Policy –
Equalization
Payments –
Transfer Payments*

Six provinces, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, are told by Ottawa that they will have to repay more than \$600 million in equalization payments. The changes in transfer payments result from new estimates of the population by Statistics Canada. However, Ottawa now owes the provinces more under the EPF program. The census recalculation also affects the equalization program as a bigger proportion of the undercount is in provinces that define the equalization standard. The amount the poorer provinces will have to pay back more than exceeds the increase they will get under the EPF. On the other hand, Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and New Brunswick will benefit from the revision and are expected to receive an extra \$200 million next year and \$400 million in back payments.

1 March 1993
*Fiscal Policy –
Ontario,
Saskatchewan,
British Columbia*

Canada's three NDP premiers, Rae, Romanow and Harcourt, agree at a meeting in Toronto to form a common front when dealing with Ottawa on fiscal matters.

The three premiers complain that the federal government blames them for running high deficits while it continues to reduce the amount it pays towards cost-sharing programs.

The premiers also condemn the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement saying it will further contribute to Canada's unemployment.

4 March 1993
*Education –
Manitoba*

In a unanimous decision the Supreme Court of Canada rules that Manitoba must establish an independent French-language school board and hand over exclusive control of French-language education to the franco-phone community.

9 March 1993
*Fiscal Policy –
Federal*

Moody's Investors Services releases a report in which it paints a grim picture of Canada's financial health. The report also backs provincial claims that Ottawa has been off-loading its debt problems on the provinces by reducing transfer payments for social programs. Since 1990, Moody's has downgraded Ontario, Alberta and

Saskatchewan, making it more expensive for them to borrow money.

12 March 1993
*Constitutional
Reform –
Official Languages
– New Brunswick*

Following the passage of constitutional resolutions in the New Brunswick Legislature and the House of Commons and Senate, the Governor-General of Canada proclaims the amendment of the *Constitution Act, 1982* to add a new section 16.1 entrenching the equality of the English and French linguistic communities in the province of New Brunswick, including the right to distinct educational and cultural institutions. The amendment is the first of the provisions that had been part of the Charlottetown Accord to become constitutional law.

17 March 1993
*Fiscal Policy –
Stabilization
Payments*

Ontario, Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island will receive special fiscal stabilization payments from the federal government. Stabilization payments are made to provinces facing a year-over-year decline in revenues because of economic downturn. Final amounts have not yet been determined.

18 March 1993
*Budgets –
Saskatchewan*

The Saskatchewan government presents its 1993-94 budget in which it proposes to cut its deficit in half to \$296 million. Taxes will rise, hospitals, municipalities, schools and universities will have their grants reduced and farmers will receive 19 percent less in support payments. The universal prescription drug plan and a children's dental plan will apply only to the needy. The government will spend an additional \$15 million on social services and another \$51 million on research and development on ways to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

18 March 1993
*Budgets –
Newfoundland*

The Newfoundland government presents its budget. There will be no new tax increases, instead money will be saved by cuts in public spending. Public sector workers will have their compensation packages cut by \$70 million and another \$29 million will come from cuts to programs and services.

The government plans to bring its 1993-94 provincial deficit to \$51 billion.

- 19 March 1993
Economic Policy – Federal-Provincial – Alberta
Federal Finance Minister Don Mazankowski, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein and Cabinet ministers from both levels of government meet in Calgary. Ottawa and Alberta hope to coordinate economic policies and eliminate overlap in areas of shared concern. Among other things they agree to improve highways throughout Alberta and to combine environmental assessment reviews for major projects.
- 20 March 1993
Budgets – British Columbia
Glen Clark, British Columbia's finance minister, brings down the provincial budget. Taxes will rise and spending will increase by 5.7 percent. The deficit is projected to be \$1.5 billion for 1993-94 which will bring the province's accumulated debt to \$26.4 billion.
- 25 March 1993
Budgets – Yukon
The Yukon government presents its budget. Taxes will rise but the territory hopes to balance its \$483 million budget and eliminate the \$57 million deficit left over from the previous NDP administration.
- 29 March 1993
Elections – Prince Edward Island
Catherine Callbeck, leader of Prince Edward Island's Liberals, becomes Canada's first elected female premier. The Liberals win 31 of the 32 seats in the Island legislature. Pat Mella, the Conservative leader, captures the sole remaining seat to become the official opposition.
- 31 March 1993
Budgets – New Brunswick
New Brunswick presents its budget. The budget contains tax increases, spending cuts and job losses. The budget deficit for 1993-94 is forecast to reach \$350 million, raising the province's net debt to \$4.1 billion.
- 2 April 1993
Aboriginal Peoples – Royal Commission
The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples releases its second report. Commission member Alan Blakeney resigns in frustration over how the Commission is proceeding. Blakeney is reported as being dissatisfied with the slowness in finding practical solutions to the problems of Aboriginal Peoples.
Ovide Mercredi, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, also voices his dissatisfaction saying the Commission has yet to offer "concrete and substantive solutions."
- 6 April 1993
Budgets – Manitoba
Manitoba releases its budget designed to reduce the deficit through spending cuts and tax hikes. Finance Minister Clayton Manness forecasts total spending of

- \$5.4 billion in fiscal year 1993-94, down 1.2 percent from last year, and a deficit of \$367 million compared with \$562 million in 1992-93.
- 6 April 1993
*Transportation –
New Brunswick*
- New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna and the federal government come to an agreement on a deal to upgrade the Trans-Canada Highway running through the province. The agreement commits each government to spend \$150 million over the next four years.
- Ottawa and Nova Scotia also recently signed an agreement to upgrade the highways in that province, worth \$140 million.
- 22 April 1993
*Parti Québécois –
Manifesto*
- The Parti Québécois publishes a new manifesto entitled "Quebec in a New World." The manifesto proposes that a sovereign Quebec and Canada break all political ties but establish three bi-national institutions to manage their economic association. A Council of Ministers, made up of elected members from the two states, a Secretariat, an administrative branch of the Council of Ministers and a Tribunal that would act as a dispute-settlement mechanism on trade matters. The manifesto will serve as a discussion document as the Parti Québécois prepares a new platform in the coming months in anticipation of the 1994 provincial election.
- 23 April 1993
*Fisheries –
Compensation*
- Fisheries Minister John Crosbie announces a further \$190 million aid package to the East Coast groundfishery. Fishermen whose catch consists of 50 percent groundfish and workers in plants who process 25 percent groundfish will qualify for assistance.
- 26 April 1993
Budgets – Federal
- Finance Minister Don Mazankowski delivers what is termed a "pre-election" budget. There will be no rise in taxes and no significant cuts in government spending. The deficit is expected to be \$32.6 billion. The accumulated federal debt is expected to be in excess of \$450 billion this year.
- 3 May 1993
*Elections –
Newfoundland*
- Newfoundland's Premier Clyde Wells is re-elected for a second term. The Liberals capture 34 seats in the 52 seat legislature, the Conservatives 17 and the NDP one.
- 6 May 1993
Budgets – Alberta
- Alberta's Treasurer Jim Dinning presents what is expected to be a pre-election budget. There will be no tax

increases, and deficit reduction will come through spending cuts. The deficit is expected to be \$2.5 billion for 1993-94 down from \$3.2 billion last year.

6 May 1993
*Fiscal Policy –
New Brunswick*

The New Brunswick legislature passes a balanced budget bill that makes it illegal for the government to show a cumulative deficit on its current account (day-to-day) expenditures. There are no penalties in case the government fails to abide by the new law. Alberta also passed a similar deficit elimination bill this month.

13 May 1993
Fisheries – Reform

Fisheries Minister John Crosbie introduces legislation in the Commons that would see the creation of two independent agencies, the Atlantic Fisheries Board and the Pacific Fisheries Board, representing the east and west coasts. The agencies would have the authority to decide who could catch fish and how much they could take. The proposal is met with opposition from Newfoundland's premier, Clyde Wells, who feels that the plan compromises his province's fishing interests. Wells wants Newfoundland to have more control over the fishery.

13 May 1993
*Environment –
Prince Edward
Island*

Federal Public Works Minister Elmer McKay announces that his department has completed a court-ordered environmental impact assessment of the proposed bridge between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick and found it to be insignificant. He added that the governments of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia "concur with the process followed to date." Ottawa now has 30 days to decide whether to hold public hearings on the potential environmental effects of the \$840 million project.

17 May 1993
*Education –
Manitoba*

Manitoba introduces a bill aimed at the establishment of a new francophone school board. The legislation is in response to a recent Supreme Court ruling that gave Manitoba's francophone parents control over the education of their children.

19 May 1993
Budgets – Ontario

Ontario's NDP government introduces a budget that includes \$1.6 billion in tax increases, the biggest increase in the province's history. Ontario's Finance Minister Floyd Laughren says that the tax increases coupled with \$4 billion spending cuts are necessary to keep the projected deficit for 1993-94 to \$9.2 billion. Laughren

- estimates that Ontario's total expenditures will be \$53.1 billion overall, about the same as last year.
- 20 May 1993
Budgets – Quebec
- Quebec's Finance Minister Gérard-D. Levesque tables a budget that eliminates deductions, closes loopholes and leaves Quebecers \$1.3 billion poorer. Levesque's aim is to hold the province's 1993-94 deficit at \$4.1 billion, down from \$4.9 billion in the last fiscal year.
- 25 May 1993
Elections – Nova Scotia
- The Liberals, led by John Savage, win a resounding majority in Nova Scotia's provincial election winning 40 out of 52 ridings. The Conservatives manage to hold on to nine seats while the NDP fail to add to their existing three seats.
- 27 May 1993
Free Trade – North America
- The Commons passes legislation that would bring Canada into the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement by a vote of 140-124. The bill now goes to the Senate for approval. The agreement, if ratified in Canada, United States and Mexico, is scheduled to take effect 1 January 1994.
- 28 May 1993
Aboriginal Peoples – Land Claims
- The federal government introduces legislation to create Canada's third territory. The Inuit of the Eastern Arctic and Prime Minister Mulroney signed the final agreement to create the territory of Nunavut on 25 May in Iqaluit, N.W.T. Ottawa agreed to create the territory by 1999. The Inuit will own one-fifth of the new territory and have the right to fish and trap in the rest. They will also get \$1.14 billion over 14 years and representation on boards and commissions concerning Nunavut.
- 29 May 1993
Aboriginal Peoples – Land Claims
- The federal government and First Nations in the Yukon sign a land claims agreement in Whitehorse. The settlement, known as the Umbrella Final Agreement, gives the 14 First Nations involved \$280 million and 41,400 square kilometres of land to divide among themselves. The agreement provides for the establishment of a joint management board system between the Indians and the territorial government in such areas as wildlife and land use. It also envisions eventual Indian self-government with jurisdiction over taxation, education, justice and environmental protection.

31 May 1993
*Fiscal Policy –
Debt and Deficit
Reduction*

Federal and provincial finance ministers meet in Ottawa to discuss the debt and deficit reduction. Bank of Canada governor John Crow also attends the two day meetings.

The nine ministers agree to work over the summer on issues such as duplication of services and the reduction in costs of social programs.

9 June 1993
*Fiscal Policy –
Federal Debt*

Moody's Investors Service, a prominent New York bond-rating agency, releases a report in which it down-plays Canada's debt crisis. Moody's vice-president William Streeter, speaking in Toronto, says "we do not subscribe to the notion that there is an impending credit crisis." Streeter expects, however, that the provinces will have to pay more for the money they borrow.

10 June 1993
*Aboriginal Peoples –
Land Claims*

Legislation providing for the creation of Canada's third territory, Nunavut, passes in the Senate.

13 June 1993
*Party Leadership –
Federal*

Kim Campbell becomes the new Conservative leader at the party's leadership convention in Ottawa. Campbell wins on the second ballot with 1,817 votes over 1,630 for Environment Minister Jean Charest. Campbell will become Canada's first female prime minister when she officially takes over from Brian Mulroney 25 June.

15 June 1993
*Transportation –
Prince Edward
Island*

Legislation allowing the federal government to proceed with plans to build a bridge between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick passes in the Commons by a vote of 146-17. Before it becomes law the bill must also be approved in the Senate.

15 June 1993
Elections – Alberta

Alberta's Conservatives under Premier Ralph Klein are re-elected with a majority government. The Tories win 51 seats, the Liberals become the official opposition with 32 seats, and the NDP fail to elect a single member, losing all 15 seats they held in the previous legislature.

17 June 1993
*Budget – Prince
Edward Island*

Prince Edward Island Treasurer Wayne Cheverie brings down a deficit-fighting budget. There will be job cuts affecting civil servants as well as government workers in the health-care and education fields. There will be no new hospitals or schools built and road construction will be limited. The new budget cuts spending by \$25.4 million to \$792.6 million for fiscal year 1993-94.

Cheverie expects a deficit of \$25.4 million this year down from last year's \$83.4 million.

18 June 1993
Fisheries – Reform
– *Compensation*

Fisheries Minister John Crosbie holds out little hope for a significant recovery of cod stocks before the late 1990s. Crosbie would not commit to future aid for those left unemployed as the result of a two-year fishing moratorium, imposed last July, when a federal compensation program runs out next year. Crosbie says that Ottawa is willing to set aside proposals for fisheries reform, which the federal government introduced in May, if Newfoundland stops its push for joint management of the resource.

21 June 1993
Aboriginal Peoples
– *Land Claims* –
British Columbia

The federal government and the government of British Columbia sign a memorandum of understanding aimed at settling aboriginal land claims in the province. Ottawa agrees to provide most of the money and British Columbia most of the land. It is hoped that the agreement will facilitate negotiations between the Aboriginal Peoples and the province.

22 June 1993
Fiscal Policy –
Quebec

Moody's Investors Service cuts Quebec's credit rating from AA minus to A plus citing continuing budgetary pressures that hinder deficit fighting. Quebec now rates lower than British Columbia, Ontario, Alberta and New Brunswick.

25 June 1993
Aboriginal Peoples
– *Land Claims* –
British Columbia

The British Columbia Court of Appeal rules that the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en Indians have a valid claim to aboriginal rights for the use of territory in the northwestern part of the province. In a unanimous decision the court agrees that aboriginal rights to the land have not been relinquished during colonial times before British Columbia joined Confederation in 1871. However, the court declines to extend ownership as such of the lands involved to the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en.

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