
Chronology of Events July 1994 – June 1995

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3-6 July 1994
Agriculture

After a three-day meeting in Winnipeg, Canada's agriculture ministers near the realization of a national farm income protection policy which will provide a "whole farm safety net" to cover all or most farm commodities. The proposed safety net is created to shield farmers from the traditional vagaries associated with farming such as crop failures and market downturns.

5 July 1994
Justice

The federal government announces the creation of a national crime prevention council to help combat the social causes of crime. The creation of the council fulfils a Liberal election promise but is viewed with scepticism given its operating budget of only \$4 million over a five-year period.

6 July 1994
Environment

Federal Environment Minister Sheila Copps and her Ontario counterpart Bud Wildman sign an agreement committing both parties to the cleanup of some 40 environmental "hotspots" in the province by the year 2000, with joint government spending at \$1.6 billion over the six-year period.

7 July 1994
Aboriginal Peoples

Ovide Mercredi, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, begins his second term in the position. To recapture his title Mercredi receives 273 votes on the third ballot

compared to Wally McKay, chief of Sachigo Lake in north-western Ontario at 175. Mercredi is supported by 61 percent of the 449 chiefs — a mere one percent more than the 60 percent required to head the group, which represents 533,000 status Indians.

13 July 1994
Aboriginal Peoples

A report prepared by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples concludes that Ottawa “coerced” Inuit families into moving to the High Arctic in the 1950s, misleading them about the reasons why. Although the commissioners resist assigning blame to the government, the report suggests that in addition to offering an apology to the Inuit the federal government should also provide a compensation package.

13 July 1994
Transportation

In a sweeping reform of air policy, Transport Minister Doug Young announces that the federal government plans to save \$100 million per year by leasing all of Canada’s major airports to local authorities in addition to eliminating subsidies for more than 100 smaller regional airports. The new policy requires all large airports to become self-sufficient not only in paying for any new facilities, but also in day-to-day operation.

18 July 1994
*Trade –
Interprovincial*

After seven years of negotiation, the first ministers sign the Agreement on Internal Trade, a national trade agreement which is also expected to provide support for the federalist forces in Quebec. The accord, to take effect 1 July 1995, will serve to:

- facilitate the sale of goods and services between provinces;
- open government buying practices;
- place limitations on the use of incentives such as tax breaks, to lure businesses from other provinces;
- attempt to standardize consumer protection regulations that would allow the freer movement of goods across Canada;
- standardize trucking industry regulations, thereby allowing the industry to become more competitive; and
- offer clear administrative provisions for effective dispute resolution based on negotiation.

- 18 July 1994
Reduction of Government Duplication
- Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Marcel Massé, announces that the federal government has signed agreements with eight of the provinces in order to reduce duplication and overlap within government. The agreements are signed by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and the first ministers from: Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, and the Yukon.
- 19 July 1994
Federal-Provincial Relations – Quebec
- An agreement between the federal and Quebec governments gives the Collège militaire royal de St-Jean, Quebec, a new lease on life. The terms of the agreement stipulate that Ottawa will provide Quebec with \$5 million annually for five years to run a modified program at the former military college, which had previously been scheduled to close.
- 21 July 1994
Aboriginal Peoples – Quebec
- The Inuit of Quebec take a significant step towards self-government with the conclusion of an agreement with the Government of Quebec which offers the Inuit the opportunity to create their own elected assembly with wide-ranging powers. The deal also allows the Inuit to assume greater control over key areas such as policing, wildlife management, and education.
- 22 July 1995
Sovereignty – Quebec
- A poll commissioned by *The Globe and Mail* and *Le Devoir* says that 51 percent of decided voters will vote for the PQ in the upcoming election, compared to 44 percent for the Liberals. The poll also indicates the primary objective of a majority of voters for good government (at 56 percent, compared to 36 percent for whom the goal was to move to sovereignty).
- 24 July 1994
Elections – Quebec
- Quebec Premier Daniel Johnson dissolves the Quebec legislature, calling for an election on 12 September — an election which some analysts claim will provide Quebecers with a choice between federalism and independence.
- 25 July 1994
Economy – Quebec; Sovereignty – Quebec
- A study conducted for the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec in Montreal concludes that Quebec has profited more from the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement than Canada as a whole. The report shows that between 1988 and 1992 Quebec's exports to the United States grew

- 43 percent compared to a national figure of 33 percent, allegedly substantiating the argument made by sovereignists for an independent and economically viable Quebec.
- 3-6 August 1994
*Trade – Canada-U.S.;
Disputes*
- A six-year dispute between Canada and the United States over softwood lumber under the Free Trade Agreement ends in Canada's favour. A three-member panel consisting of two Canadian jurists and one American concludes that Canadian softwood lumber is not subsidized and therefore the United States must cease the imposition of a 6.51 percent tariff on Canadian imports.
- 8 August 1994
Elections – Quebec
- After entering the Quebec election fray, Bloc Québécois Leader Lucien Bouchard alters the course of the Parti Québécois campaign by emphasizing good government first and sovereignty afterwards. Bouchard's strategy surprises many, since it not only attacks the past record of the provincial government but it also targets the Chrétien government, claiming that a vote for the Quebec Liberals is a vote for massive federal invasion into Quebec.
- 8 August 1994
*Infrastructure
Program*
- As part of a \$6 billion national infrastructure program, federal Treasury Board President Art Eggleton announces that the federal and Ontario governments will team up to fund a new \$173 million trade centre designed to attract large trade and consumer shows to Toronto in addition to creating employment. The trade centre is the second largest project to be approved under the infrastructure program.
- 10 August 1994
*Fiscal Policy –
Provinces*
- A report by the Toronto Dominion Bank suggests that for the first time this decade, every province in Canada was able to cut its deficit in the past year — reducing the total of the annual provincial deficits from \$25 billion to \$19.5 billion.
- 16 August 1994
National Unity
- At the first Acadian World Congress in Moncton, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien promotes a united Canada as the best means of preserving French culture in North America, citing the Acadians as an example. The same day, Heritage Minister Michel Dupuy announces a new federal policy promoting both French and English minority language groups across Canada.

- 25 August 1994
Justice
- Justice Minister Allan Rock tells the annual convention of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in Montreal that there is much work to be done to make the streets of Canada safe. In a closed session, the chiefs approve resolutions supporting broader gun controls, more severe treatment of immigrants who commit crimes, and the prohibition of "serial killer" trading cards.
- 29 August 1994
Elections – Quebec
- Quebec Premier Daniel Johnson is aggressive in a televised leaders' debate, defending himself against attacks by Parti Québécois Leader Jacques Parizeau, although analysts agree that Johnson's performance is unlikely to stem the sovereigntist tide in the 12 September election. Johnson emphasizes to Quebecers that their choice is between a free-market, federalist Liberal party and an interventionist, sovereigntist PQ.
- 31 August 1994
*Senate –
Appointments*
- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien makes his first Senate appointment selecting Jean-Louis Roux, a renowned Quebec actor, writer, and director. Roux's appointment brings standings in the Upper House to 56 Conservatives, 41 Liberals, and three independents, with four vacancies.
- 1 September 1994
*Premiers – Annual
Conference*
- Canada's premiers conclude their two-day annual conference in Toronto. The main achievements of the meeting include an agreement to establish a task force on aboriginal self-government and treaty rights; a commitment to greater information sharing to reduce welfare fraud; and an affirmation of support for a proposal by Quebec Premier Daniel Johnson to create a new mechanism for provincial cooperation on issues of national importance.
- 9 September 1994
*Social Assistance –
Manitoba*
- In a joint effort, Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy announces that the federal and Manitoba governments are committing \$2.6 million to a new five-year program designed to help 4,000 single parents on welfare find employment.
- 12 September 1994
Elections – Quebec
- After a seven-week election campaign, Quebecers hand the Parti Québécois a majority government with 77 seats to 47 for the Liberals, one for the Parti Action Démocratique, and a complete shut-out for the Equality Party. Despite capturing a majority of the 125 seats in the

legislature, the PQ surprises political observers in that it receives 44.7 percent of the popular vote, only 0.4 percent more than the Liberals. The media interpret the election results as an indication that Quebecers are not ready to separate from Canada, and are likely to vote against sovereignty in the upcoming referendum.

13 September 1994
Elections – Quebec

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien reacts to news of the Parti Québécois victory by saying that the election results are the best he could have hoped for without achieving a Liberal victory. Chrétien expresses confidence in the strong Liberal showing and suggests that Quebecers will choose to remain a part of Canada at referendum time. In a conference call nine provincial premiers agree that the election results do not give the PQ a mandate to break up the country, nor do they entitle Quebec to “special deals” to remain a part of Canada. The premiers urge the PQ to hold the referendum as soon as possible. However, they are adamant that there will not be another round of constitutional negotiations.

14 September 1994
*Sovereignty –
Quebec; Federal-
Provincial Relations
– Quebec*

In his first news conference as Quebec premier-designate, Jacques Parizeau announces that the Parti Québécois will maintain its referendum timetable, holding its critical vote on independence sometime in the coming year. Parizeau also states that he and his ministers will attend only those federal-provincial conferences that are in Quebec’s interests, and will refuse to participate in any major reforms that encroach on areas of provincial jurisdiction, such as initiatives to revamp Canada’s social programs.

14-15 September 1994
Health Policy

Federal and provincial health ministers end a two-day conference in Halifax. Issues discussed at the meeting include: regulation of the development of private clinics in Canada; a review of proposed federal legislation regarding the use of generic drugs; and issues concerning Canada’s blood system.

15 September 1994
*Senate –
Appointments*

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien appoints three prominent Liberal women to the Senate: Sharon Carstairs, former Manitoba Liberal leader; Lise Bacon, a former deputy premier of Quebec; and Landon Pearson, a daughter-in-law of former Prime Minister Lester Pearson.

- 18 September 1994
Sovereignty – Quebec
- At the annual meeting of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Quebec City, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien says that he will promote Canadian federalism through economic incentives such as deficit reduction and job creation; he also suggests that part of the government's strategy is to provide Quebecers with better government in Ottawa. Chrétien also says that he intends to be a vocal critic of the referendum since it is important to all Canadians, not just Quebecers.
- 26 September 1994
Aboriginal Peoples
- Health Minister Diane Marleau announces that the federal government plans to give native communities \$243 million over the next five years to confront problems of alcoholism, solvent abuse, suicide, and family violence. This is in addition to the annual \$500 million contribution which Ottawa spends on non-insured health service for Aboriginal Peoples.
- 27 September 1994
Education
- The Council of Ministers of Education meets in Charlottetown to discuss a national education agenda. The ministers agree to publish a report card on Canadian schools in order to make provincial school systems more accountable for their performance.
- 28 September 1994
Federal-Provincial Relations – Quebec
- In a news conference Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau says that Quebec will decide to participate in federal-provincial and interprovincial conferences on a case-by-case basis, depending on whether or not its interests are at stake.
- 28 September 1994
Sovereignty – Quebec
- Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau declares that the referendum on sovereignty will be held by 31 December 1995, thus rejecting a proposal made by Bloc Québécois Leader Lucien Bouchard to postpone the referendum until the PQ is certain of victory.
- 29 September 1994
Federal-Provincial Relations – Quebec
- Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Marcel Massé announces that the federal government has agreed to comply with the demands of the Parti Québécois and the Bloc Québécois and will fulfil a promise made by the former Conservative government to compensate Quebec for that province's 1992 referendum on the Charlottetown Accord. While the PQ government demands \$47.2 million in

remuneration, the federal government agrees to a sum of \$34 million.

5 October 1994
*Social Programs –
Reform*

Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy unveils the federal government's plans for a major overhaul of Canada's social programs. In order to reduce the deficit and potentially cut \$3 billion in federal spending per year, the government proposes radical reforms of federal spending on welfare, unemployment insurance, and postsecondary education — with a specific emphasis on improving job training and making programs more efficient. Among the proposals in the Axworthy plan:

- a two-tiered unemployment insurance system for occasional and chronic claimants and a restriction on admissibility criteria;
- a reduction in federal support for postsecondary education; but a proposal for increased student loans through an income-contingent program;
- revision and reduction of Canada Assistance Plan payments to the provinces, with provincial governments assuming greater control over welfare and social services;
- increased child tax benefits to the most needy.

6 October 1994
Environment

Federal Environment Minister Sheila Copps announces the proclamation of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, which requires environmental assessment of major projects in every region of the country and also replaces the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. The Act is denounced by Quebec Minister of the Environment Jacques Brassard as an intrusion into provincial jurisdiction.

12 October 1994
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

Pierre Fortin, an economics professor at the University of Montreal, releases a study which suggests that separation from Canada could cost Quebecers an extra \$3.4 billion annually. According to Fortin, who supports neither the Parti Québécois nor the Quebec Liberals, the additional costs would be attributed to a variety of factors including: the costs associated with starting up a new country; a substantial slowdown in the Quebec economy; and the burdens

incurred in funding all social security programs in the province.

- 12 October 1994
Sovereignty – Quebec
- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announces that the federal government does not have a backup plan in the event that Quebecers opt to separate from Canada in the upcoming referendum, instead expressing confidence that such a scenario is unlikely.
- 13-14 October
Fiscal Policy
- Canada's finance ministers, including Jean Campeau of Quebec's Parti Québécois government, meet in Toronto to discuss public finances. The ministers discuss proposals to eliminate the goods and services tax, an election promise made by the federal government, although Finance Minister Paul Martin announces that the Chrétien government has abandoned a deadline of 1 January 1996 to replace the tax.
- 18 October 1994
Fiscal Policy
- Finance Minister Paul Martin announces that the federal government requires an additional \$9.4 billion in spending cuts or additional tax revenues over the next two years to meet his target of slashing the federal deficit to \$32.7 billion in 1995-96, and \$25 billion in 1996-97, 3 percent of Canada's gross national product (GNP).
- 20 October 1994
Health Policy – Reforms
- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien opens a \$12 million National Health Care Forum in Ottawa without provincial representation. The purpose of the forum, consisting of 22 health-care experts and spanning a period of five years, is to search for more efficient means of providing health care. The lack of provincial representation is attributed to the federal government's decision not to appoint any provincial representatives to the panel or to the position of vice-chair and the provinces' rejection of the federal government's intervention in an area that is traditionally under provincial jurisdiction.
- 20 October 1994
Aboriginal Peoples
- In a demonstration on Parliament Hill, aboriginal groups protest new guidelines established by Revenue Canada which will force thousands of native persons to pay income tax. The guidelines were conceived after a Supreme Court ruling which decided that the tax status of Aboriginal Peoples should be based on three factors: location of

residence, location of work, and location of employer. Originally proposed by the Conservative government in 1992, the guidelines were then denounced by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien who served as opposition leader at the time.

In an unrelated development, the federal government announces that it will relinquish control of manpower training to the Mohawks of the Kahnawake in order to create more effective employment programs. The government commits \$3.8 million in funds to the Kahnawake through 1997 in order to help reduce unemployment.

24 October 1994
Trade – Quebec

The Quebec government signs a trade agreement with the Chinese province of Hubei, designed to promote exchange in the areas of business, science, technology, and education. In keeping with earlier statements the Quebec government will not participate in an upcoming trade visit to China by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Canada's nine other premiers.

25 October 1994
Tourism

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announces the creation of a national tourism commission with an initial annual budget of \$50 million, to promote Canada as a tourist destination, noting that Canada has a balance of payments deficit in tourism of nearly \$8 billion.

27 October 1994
Taxation – Ontario

An agreement between the federal and Ontario governments commits both parties to the goal of reducing tax evasion, smuggling, and the black market, which traditionally result in a loss of \$2 billion in federal taxes. The governments agree to share information to identify cases of tax evasion, and to cooperate on audits and collection activity.

29 October 1994
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien says that he will not interfere with Quebec Liberal Leader Daniel Johnson's efforts to maintain a united Canada. Chrétien also reiterates that no new constitutional offers will be made to the province before the referendum.

- 4 November 1994
Aboriginal Peoples – Nova Scotia, Self-Government
- Federal Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin signs an historic accord giving complete control of education to Nova Scotia's Micmacs. The agreement in principle, which is the first to relinquish control over education on reserves to natives in the province, will mean that the Micmacs negotiate directly with school boards on issues such as subject matter and tuition, and are given the freedom to emphasize their language and culture within the school curricula.
- 7 November 1994
Environment
- The Government of Quebec refuses to participate in a meeting of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment in Bathurst, New Brunswick to discuss the harmonization of environmental policies. It feels that harmonization offers the federal government a greater opportunity to encroach upon areas of provincial jurisdiction.
- 10 November 1994
Trade – International
- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, and Canada's premiers, with the exception of Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau, return from a six-day trade mission to China known as "Team Canada." The group is successful in negotiating potentially \$9 billion in commercial agreements, and considers adopting a similar strategy in the future to tap markets in India or South America.
- 10 November 1994
Federal-Provincial Relations – Quebec
- Richard Le Hir, PQ minister responsible for restructuring, releases 42 studies prepared by the former Liberal government suggesting that spending by the federal government is \$3 billion a year less than it should be considering Quebec's share of Canada's population. Liberal critic Jean-Marc Fournier suggests that the figures do not include equalization payments or large areas of federal spending such as postsecondary education.
- 15 November 1994
Sovereignty – Quebec
- In an address to the Montreal Chamber of Commerce Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau denounces the federal system, alleging that it: restricts the province's ability to grow by blocking its initiatives in areas such as labour training and communications; and penalizes its success, through reductions in equalization payments.

15 November 1994
Fisheries – Reforms

Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin releases a discussion paper committing the federal government to establishing a clear set of rules governing natural resources of the seas within Canadian territory. Under a new oceans act the management strategy would seek to:

- conserve and protect the ocean environment;
- assert Canada's sovereignty and environmental control within the 200-mile nautical limit;
- create a federal agency responsible for oceans management; and
- establish a series of economic and environmental guidelines for ocean management.

18 November 1994
Energy – Hydro-Quebec

The Quebec government decides to terminate the \$13 billion, "Great Whale" hydroelectric project undertaken by Hydro-Québec, the second phase of the James Bay development project. The decision to scrap the project is interpreted by the media as partly to meet the objections of Quebec's native population, which has been vocal in its opposition to the notion of an independent Quebec.

22 November 1994
Sovereignty – Quebec

In Toronto, Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau promises that the constitution of a sovereign Quebec will give anglophones in the province veto power over any reduction of their rights.

24 November 1994
Fisheries – East Coast; Disputes

Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin announces that the U.S. government has formally recognized Canadian jurisdiction over Icelandic scallops in international waters off the East Coast, thereby ending a four-month dispute between the two countries.

27 November 1994
Sovereignty – Quebec

Concluding a weekend policy meeting of the Bloc Québécois in Mont-Ste-Anne, Quebec, Bloc Leader Lucien Bouchard officially declares the referendum season open, committing his party to an agenda of attacks on the federal system. Bouchard says that the initiatives by the Chrétien government to produce social reform, develop a national sales tax, and tackle Canada's debt will ultimately serve to weaken Quebec's ability to act within its jurisdiction.

30 November 1994
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

In his inaugural address to the National Assembly, Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau reaffirms that the referendum will be held in 1995. Parizeau adds that he is in favour of maintaining an economic association with Canada in addition to using Canadian currency; he also suggests that Quebecers will be consulted on the sovereignty issue in the months ahead.

30 November 1994
Justice – Reforms

Justice Minister Allan Rock tables a sweeping package of controversial reforms aimed at improving gun control in Canada. The justice minister argues that a registration system for firearms is required since many crimes are committed in Canada each year using weapons stolen from legitimate owners, and a registration system could help to facilitate the apprehension of criminals. Among the stipulations: compulsory registration of all firearms in Canada within a specified time frame, a widespread ban on civilian ownership of handguns, new mandatory sentencing for serious offences committed with weapons and possession of smuggled firearms, and the imposition of age restrictions on the sale of ammunition.

1 December 1994
*Party Leadership –
Bloc Québécois;
Sovereignty –
Quebec*

The effectiveness of the Bloc Québécois in Parliament and in the upcoming referendum campaign is questioned after leader Lucien Bouchard loses his left leg and nearly his life to a viral disease. He is absent from the House of Commons until 22 February 1995.

6 December 1994
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau tables a draft bill in the National Assembly stating that Quebec is a sovereign country, proposing a referendum to seek public approval of the bill, and demarcating the Parti Québécois strategy for the referendum campaign. The legislation also accomplishes several other goals:

- it establishes a \$2-million system of regional forums and public hearings to encourage the participation of Quebecers in drafting a declaration of sovereignty to be included in the bill's preamble;
- it authorizes the government to negotiate an economic association with the rest of Canada and it stipulates that Quebec will continue to use the Canadian dollar as its legal currency;

- it indicates that Quebec citizens will be able to retain their Canadian citizenship;
- it reaffirms Quebec's intentions to apply, as a sovereign state, to international organizations such as the United Nations; and
- the bill also calls for a new Quebec constitution including a Charter of Rights, and protection of the rights of Aboriginal Peoples and the English-speaking community.

7 December 1994
*Fiscal Policy –
 Stabilization
 Payments*

Finance Minister Paul Martin announces that the federal government will pay \$782.4 million in stabilization claims to eight provinces as compensation for losses in revenue incurred as a result of the recent recession. More than half of the total, or \$484.4 million, goes to Ontario while Quebec, which receives \$125 million, counters that it has been shortchanged and opts to take the matter to arbitration. Other provinces that receive payments are Newfoundland, \$31.1 million; Prince Edward Island, \$9 million; Nova Scotia, \$55 million; New Brunswick, \$25 million; Manitoba, \$42.9 million; and Saskatchewan, \$10 million.

7 December 1994
*Aboriginal Peoples –
 Self-Government*

The federal government signs an unprecedented agreement with Manitoba native leaders which outlines the process for dismantling the Indian Affairs Department in that province. The agreement is claimed to mark a significant step in the goal of aboriginal self-government.

13 December 1994
*Aboriginal Peoples –
 Quebec*

At a meeting of the Assembly of First Nations, Chief Ovide Mercredi asks Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to protect the rights of Aboriginals in Quebec in the event that Quebec separates from Canada, which Mercredi suggests the federal government can circumvent by opening constitutional discussions with Quebec.

14 December 1994
*Sovereignty –
 Quebec*

Quebec Liberal Party Leader Daniel Johnson declares that he will not ask the federal government to open constitutional negotiations on renewed federalism until after the referendum has taken place.

- 15 December 1994
Aboriginal Peoples – Quebec, Self-Government
- The Parti Québécois offer two of the province's aboriginal groups, the Atikamekw and the Montagnais, a self-government deal that would give the groups exclusive jurisdiction over 4,000 square kilometres of land, the revenues from natural resources, and \$342 million in financial compensation. The offer is viewed with scepticism by some other aboriginal communities, which see it as a means of dividing Quebec natives on the subject of sovereignty for the province.
- 15 December 1994
Federal-Provincial Relations – Quebec
- The Quebec government demands \$79 million in compensation from the federal government to cover the costs associated with the provision of provincial police services during the Oka crisis of 1990. Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Marcel Massé says that the federal auditor-general will decide whether or not Quebec receives the payment.
- 19 December 1994
Sovereignty – Quebec
- The Quebec government tables enabling legislation to ensure the application of provisions that fall within its constitutional bounds under international trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The legislation is designed to provide Quebecers with greater participation in liberalized trade and trade bodies; it also claims that a sovereign Quebec should not be denied entry to international agreements. Quebec is the first province to introduce enabling legislation.
- 19 December 1994
Agriculture – Federal-Provincial Relations
- Canada's agriculture ministers conclude a framework for a new farm safety net designed to facilitate planning by farmers in the long term. The optional program replaces a number of existing programs, allowing farmers to deposit money into an account during prosperous times and to make withdrawals when income drops below an established level during harder times. The new plan places more responsibility on producers, and attempts to make them less dependent on government bailouts in times of difficulty.

20 December 1994
*Sovereignty –
 Quebec; National
 Unity*

In an interview with CTV, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien says that it is illegal and "non-constitutional" for Quebec to separate from Canada, whether the sovereignists achieve a majority vote on the upcoming referendum or not. Chrétien also dismisses claims made by the PQ that Quebec will automatically become part of international trade agreements negotiated by Canada such as the North American Free Trade Agreement. Chrétien reiterates that he expects the federalist forces to win the referendum.

21 December 1994
*Sovereignty –
 Quebec*

Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin admits that Ottawa cannot stop an independent Quebec from using the Canadian dollar, however, Martin believes that Quebec would consequently lose its economic sovereignty since it would have no control over the Canadian dollar.

4 January 1995
*Sovereignty –
 Quebec*

Moody's Investor Service, a leading American debt-rating agency, cautions the Quebec government against pursuing its separatist agenda at the expense of a credible deficit-reduction program if the province wishes to maintain its A1 rating.

6 January 1995
*Health Policy –
 Funding*

Health Minister Diane Marleau declares that any province that allows private clinics to charge facility fees will be denied transfer payments of equal value beginning 15 October. According to Marleau, facility fees engender a two-tiered system of health care which threatens Canada's publicly funded system.

10 January 1995
*Sovereignty –
 Quebec*

Mario Dumont, leader of the Parti Action Démocratique, announces that his party is drafting its own referendum question based on the vision of a European-style association between a sovereign Quebec and Canada. In other developments regarding sovereignty, a study released by the C.D. Howe Institute suggests that Quebec independence will produce a constitutional, political, and economic crisis that will lead to hardship for all Canadians, rivaling the Great Depression in scope.

10 January 1995
*Social Programs –
 Reform; Maritime/
 Atlantic Provinces –
 Cooperation*

In light of the federal government's proposals of October to reform Canada's social policy, governments in Atlantic Canada join together in order to protect their mutual interests. Of particular concern are plans to restrict unemployment insurance, proposals to change educational

funding, and initiatives designed to encourage welfare recipients to work.

11 January 1995
*Trade –
Interprovincial;
Disputes*

Dissension among the provinces occurs when it is announced that courier giant United Parcel Service Canada Ltd. is to receive \$6 million from the government of New Brunswick in worker training incentives, for moving almost 900 jobs to that province from across Canada. The other provincial governments, most notably those of British Columbia and Ontario, argue that this "job poaching" violates the spirit of an interprovincial trade agreement signed six months earlier by the first ministers, to take effect on 1 July.

12 January 1995
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

Quebec Liberal Party Leader Daniel Johnson says that he will embark on a cross-Canada tour in the months before the referendum meeting with all of Canada's premiers, in order to show Quebecers that dialogue between Quebec and the rest of Canada is possible, and that other provinces also support Johnson's bid for a modified federalism.

13 January 1995
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

At a news conference in Montreal, Quebec Liberal Leader Daniel Johnson says that a vote against independence in the coming referendum will be a vote for a better Canadian union in the future. At the conference Johnson tries to appeal to undecided voters by suggesting that changes to Confederation are required and are expected in the future. He also announces the creation of a Liberal party committee to assemble arguments against separation and provide a perspective on what a vote against sovereignty will offer Quebecers.

16 January 1995
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien suggests that he is willing to consider constitutional change as an option in the future, saying that it can be accomplished through the constitutional amending formula. He also indicates that the federal government might limit its involvement in areas such as higher education and social welfare, but that its role in health care is non-negotiable.

24-25 January 1995
Justice

Canada's justice ministers end a two-day conference in Victoria and agree to adopt several recommendations of a task force on dangerous offenders, including reclassify-

- ing repeat violent offenders as long-term offenders who would remain in prison longer, a revision of sentencing provisions for dangerous offenders, and use of a police information databank to track individuals considered to be dangerous.
- 27 January 1995
Sovereignty – Quebec
Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau ends a four-day visit to Paris and is confident that France will recognize a sovereign Quebec if the referendum results favour independence.
- 1 February 1995
Social Programs – Reform
Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy announces that proposals introduced in October to reform the federal government's social programs will be postponed until there is "clear fiscal stability" in Canada, implying that the reforms will occur only after the government's deficit-reduction plans are in place.
- 6 February 1995
Sovereignty – Quebec
The Quebec government opens a series of hearings by 16 regional and two special-interest commissions intended to boost support for independence before the referendum. Some commission hearings are criticized for not providing federalists with an equal opportunity to participate.
- 8 February 1995
Governor-General
Romeo Leblanc is installed as Canada's new governor-general. At the investiture Leblanc, the first Acadian to assume the position, promotes national unity by discussing Acadian history and how his people overcame French-English differences and learned to coexist peacefully.
- 9 February 1995
Aboriginal Peoples – Quebec, Self-Government
Native leaders from the Atikamekw community reject an offer made by the Quebec government which would realize major land claims and self-government. The leaders charge that the offer was extended in order to gain aboriginal support for the referendum on Quebec sovereignty; they also say that the offer does not respect fundamental native rights. The Montagnais, another native community, reject the same offer a month earlier.
- 10 February 1995
Sovereignty – Quebec
Prime Minister Jean Chrétien addresses the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Montreal and warns that Quebec's international trade will suffer extensively if the

province separates from Canada. Chrétien also says that not only will a sovereign Quebec have to negotiate its entrance into trade pacts of which Canada is already a member, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), but Quebec also risks losing special protection for cultural industries, dairy products, and provincial crown corporations.

13 February 1995
*Elections – Federal
Byelections*

The federal Liberals win three byelections, the biggest accomplishment being that of Denis Paradis over Bloc Québécois candidate Jean-François Bertrand in the Quebec riding of Brome-Missisquoi, a seat previously held by the Bloc. The party also gains seats in the traditional Liberal strongholds of St-Henri-Westmount and Ottawa-Vanier. Prime Minister Chrétien touts the victories as an indication that the federalist forces will stem the separatist tide in the upcoming referendum on Quebec sovereignty.

14 February 1995
Electoral Reforms

Members of the House of Commons agree in principle, by a vote of 176 to 54, to the addition of six MPs to the House in time for the next federal election; this brings the number of MPs to 301, from the present 295. Members also agree that riding boundaries will be redrawn, before the next federal election, to reflect the latest changes in census data.

15 February 1995
National Unity

The federal government spends \$1.1 million on ceremonies commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Canadian maple leaf flag. Chrétien uses the celebration to further the cause of Canadian unity.

16 February 1995
Language Policy

A study released by the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages concludes that francophones continue to have difficulties in obtaining service in French from federal government offices.

20 February 1995
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

Bloc Québécois Leader Lucien Bouchard makes several statements questioning the referendum strategy of its provincial counterpart, the Parti Québécois, indicating that Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau should only call the referendum when support for sovereignty is strong.

22 February 1995
*Federal Cabinet –
National Unity*

At the House of Commons, Lucienne Robillard, a victor in the recent byelections, is installed in Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's Cabinet as labour minister and the minister responsible for the Quebec referendum.

22 February 1995
*Pension Reform –
Members of
Parliament*

Treasury Board President Art Eggleton announces the federal government's plans to reform the pension plan of members of Parliament, which will save taxpayers \$3.3 million per year. The reforms include an end to double dipping, a practice that allows former MPs to collect pensions while working in another government job; the establishment of age eligibility criteria in order to receive a government pension; and the provision of greater benefits to those MPs who work longer.

24 February 1995
*Canada Pension
Plan*

A report from the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions says that the Canada Pension Plan will run out of money by the year 2015 unless premiums rise faster than projected or benefits are reduced.

27 February 1995
Budgets – Federal

Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin introduces a budget designed to reduce the federal deficit to \$24.3 billion in two years. The budget meets the federal government's medium-range deficit-reduction plans, and is critically acclaimed by the financial community. Martin proposes to accomplish the goal of deficit reduction largely through \$10.4 billion in cuts to government spending and through modest tax increases, although the budget does not call for any personal income tax increases. The budget announces that the Established Programs Financing (EPF) and the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) will be combined in fiscal year 1995-96, and the total entitlement reduced from \$32.7 billion in 1995-96 to \$24.3 billion in 1996-97. The new program, to be called the Canada Social Transfer (later re-named the Canada Social and Health Transfer), will be the subject of negotiations with the provinces regarding potential conditions as well as the formula for determining interprovincial shares. Among other budget highlights:

- a \$975 right-of-landing fee for adult immigrants in addition to increases in citizenship fees;
- a \$1 billion corporate tax increase over two years;

- privatization of CN and the sale of remaining shares of Petro-Canada;
- substantial cuts in business, dairy, and transportation subsidies;
- a 21-percent cut in foreign aid spending over three years;
- more cuts and closures of military facilities;
- a rollback of RRSP contribution limits;
- promises of further reform of the unemployment insurance system; and
- promises of a restructuring of the Canada Pension Plan.

28 February 1995
Justice – Reforms

The House of Commons passes amendments to the *Young Offenders Act* which double maximum sentences for teenagers convicted of first-degree murder to ten years, while raising sentences for second-degree murder from five years to seven. The amendments also create provisions to try older teenagers charged with serious violent offences in adult court, serving a new minimum of at least ten years before parole eligibility.

2 March 1995
*Budgets – Federal;
Fiscal Policy*

The Canadian Bond Rating Service (CBRS) gives its first encouraging report of federal finances in five years as a result of the budget brought down by Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin.

3 March 1995
Budgets – Federal

In a visit to New York City, Finance Minister Paul Martin's attempts to sell his budget are met with enthusiasm by Wall Street, although the financial community expresses concern regarding investment prospects in Canada in view of Quebec's separatist aspirations.

8 March 1995
*Fisheries – East
Coast*

Canada's first Round Table on the Future of the Atlantic Fishery meets in Montreal, where fishermen, processors, natives, and government officials meet to decide the best means of preserving Atlantic fish stocks. Among the conclusions were: an essential decrease in capacity by all fleets and in all regions and provinces, stricter management of quotas, and distribution of unemployment insurance primarily to full-time fishermen. The group also agrees that it is largely Ottawa's responsibility to manage and conserve the resource.

- 9-10 March 1995
Sovereignty – Quebec
- After a two-day caucus meeting in Drummondville aimed at boosting the morale of Parti Québécois MNAs disheartened by sagging support for sovereignty, Premier Jacques Parizeau says that the referendum will be held within the year as originally planned. Parizeau quells speculation, including that of Bloc Québécois Leader Lucien Bouchard, that the referendum will be delayed or that the nature of Quebec sovereignty will be diluted to appease soft nationalists. Parizeau admits that the regional commissions created to promote Quebec independence failed to produce the surge in support that was hoped for.
- 13 March 1995
Sovereignty – Quebec
- The Quebec government releases a study by a New York law firm which says that economic self-interest would likely ensure that a separatist Quebec would remain in any trade or defence-related agreements negotiated by Canada, and that the United States would likely extend coverage of existing treaties and agreements to a sovereign Quebec.
- 14 March 1995
Sovereignty – Quebec
- Furthering the sovereignist cause, Premier Jacques Parizeau tells the opening of the spring session of the Quebec legislature that it is not independence that will inevitably cause Quebec's economic downfall but the burden of the massive Canadian debt.
- 21 March 1995
Senate – Appointments
- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien makes two more appointments to the Senate: Celine Hervieux-Payette, a former federal Cabinet minister; and Rose-Marie Losier-Cool, a former teachers' union leader and women's advocate. The new standings in the Upper House, after several appointments, are: Conservatives, 52; Liberals, 47; Independents, three; and two vacancies.
- 22 March 1995
Fiscal Policy – Federal-Provincial
- Dominion Bond Rating Service announces that Canada's four richest provinces will shoulder a disproportionate share of the federal government's cutbacks of \$5.3 billion in transfer payments over the succeeding three years.
- 23 March 1995
Aboriginal Peoples
- A report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples on treaty-making as an alternative to the extinguishment of aboriginal title, says that Ottawa must stop trying to buy out Aboriginal Peoples with land and cash and start

negotiating with them as partners. The report also recommends joint land management by Aboriginal Peoples and other governments, with self-government as a part of the treaties.

27 March 1995
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

In a statement, Quebec's Deputy Premier Bernard Landry suggests that the referendum on independence will most probably be delayed until sometime after June due to a lack of support for the separatist cause. Landry's statements along with remarks made by Premier Jacques Parizeau, suggest that a fall referendum is likely. In order to boost support for the sovereignist movement, which is estimated to be well below the 50 percent level, the Parti Québécois plans a massive information campaign for households in order to allay the fears and concerns of Quebecers.

4 April 1995
Defence

The Public Works Department announces that it will pay Unisys GSC Canada Inc. of Montreal \$68 million in return for cancelling a \$5.8 billion deal made by the former Conservative government for the purchase of new ship-borne and search and rescue helicopters.

5 April 1995
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

During a speech to the "South Shore" Chamber of Commerce in Quebec, Premier Jacques Parizeau announces that the referendum on independence for the province will be held in the fall. Parizeau justifies the delay by saying that Quebecers need more information about separation. The announcement is said to surprise the federal government, although it continues to ready its arguments for the spring.

6 April 1995
Justice – Reforms

A package of controversial gun-control reforms passes second reading in the House of Commons by a vote of 175 to 53, with the Bloc Québécois supporting the bill and all but one Reform MP voting against it.

7 April 1995
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

Bloc Québécois Leader Lucien Bouchard incites dissension within the separatist movement when he challenges Parti Québécois Premier Jacques Parizeau to take a "virage" (change in direction) proposing a closer political economic and political union between a sovereign Quebec and Canada.

- 10 April 1995
Health Policy
- Canada's health ministers sign an agreement with the Canadian Red Cross Society and the Canadian Blood Agency that will improve the safety of Canada's blood supply by clearly defining the roles of the two organizations.
- 11 April 1995
Aboriginal Peoples – Newfoundland
- After a 16-month absence the RCMP returns to the Labrador community of Davis Inlet a month after signing a joint policing agreement with the Innu which gives the Aboriginal People a greater role in policing. The RCMP were originally ordered to leave the community because of Innu demands for a native justice system.
- 11 April 1995
Agriculture
- Agriculture Minister Ralph Goodale announces that the federal government will pay a total sum of \$1.6 billion to Prairie farmers who rent their land as compensation for the elimination of grain transportation subsidies.
- 13 April 1995
Budgets – Federal
- Sceptical of the federal government's commitment to deficit-reduction and the likely success of Finance Minister Paul Martin's plan as announced in the recent budget, Moody's Investors Service downgrades the federal government's Canadian-dollar bonds from triple-A to double-A1. It also cuts the ratings on bonds issued in foreign currencies from double-A1 to double-A2.
- 13 April 1995
Health Policy
- In Edmonton, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien denounces proposals suggested by Alberta Premier Ralph Klein that would allow for the privatization of some health-care services, saying that the *Canada Health Act* does not allow for private clinics or the unilateral de-insuring of medical services. The Alberta proposals attempt to make health-care services more efficient through such means as offering certain medical services on a "user-pay" basis and selling surplus hospitals to private groups.
- 15 April 1995
Fisheries – East Coast
- Federal Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin announces that a tentative agreement has been reached between Canada and the European Union after a month-long dispute over turbot fisheries in the area just outside Canada's 200 mile limit. In the agreement Canada realizes key demands for tougher enforcement and conservation measures and new limits on minimum fish size. In return, Canada agrees to give the EU 6,000 tonnes of its turbot quota for the year,

putting Canada and the Union on a par with 10,000 tonnes each.

19 April 1995
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

The provincial commission on the future of Quebec releases a report drawing conclusions from the 18 commissions that solicited the opinions of Quebecers during the winter. The report is significant in that it proposes a political union with Canada after sovereignty. Other key conclusions are that the Quebec government should negotiate its fair share of the national debt and an independent Quebec should guarantee the historical rights and identity of both its anglophone minority and its Aboriginal Peoples.

23 April 1995
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

A Quebec public affairs program, L'Évènement, makes public a document suggesting that the Quebec Liberal Party believes Quebec should adhere to the 1982 constitution with three conditions: that Quebec regains its constitutional veto, that the trend to decentralization leads to concrete measures to divide powers among the levels of government, and that there be a renewed emphasis on making each level of government accountable to its citizens.

25 April 1995
Elections – Manitoba

The Conservative government of Manitoba, led by Premier Gary Filmon, returns to power for a third consecutive term. The Conservatives get a majority government capturing 31 of the legislature's 57 seats; the New Democrats solidify their position as official Opposition, with 23 seats; the Liberals win only three seats. Seats at dissolution were: Conservatives, 29; NDP, 20; and Liberals six, with two vacancies.

26 April 1995
Justice – Reforms

Alberta Justice Minister Brian Evans declares that the Alberta government supports a proposal put forth by the Government of Saskatchewan to opt out of federal gun-control legislation.

28 April 1995
*Pension Reform –
Members of
Parliament*

Legislation aimed at reforming the pension plan for members of Parliament is introduced in the House.

28 April 1995
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

With support for sovereignty declining, Premier Jacques Parizeau decides to employ suggestions by Bloc Québécois Leader Lucien Bouchard and other Quebec sovereignists proposing a closer political union with Canada in order to gain the confidence of Quebecers. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien dismisses Parizeau's about face as an attempt to dupe the people of Quebec, saying "Why leave just to come back?" Chrétien is also adamant that the federal government will not negotiate any special agreements with Quebec.

3 May 1995
*Sovereignty –
Quebec*

At a Liberal fund-raising dinner in Montreal, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien accuses Premier Jacques Parizeau of attempting to "trick" Quebecers into voting for sovereignty in the upcoming referendum, by offering economic and political association with the rest of Canada. Chrétien insists that it is a decision for the rest of Canada to make, not Quebecers.

5 May 1995
*Maritime/Atlantic
Provinces –
Conference of
Atlantic Premiers*

The 13th session of the Conference of Atlantic Premiers is held in Halifax in conjunction with the 93rd session of the Council of Maritime Premiers. The premiers agree to cooperate in several areas, including distance education, regional development, the creation of an Atlantic investment fund, and the establishment of a computer service to market and sell government information.

9 May 1995
Budgets – Quebec

Finance Minister Jean Campeau delivers the Parti Québécois' first budget, promising much financial hardship for Quebecers in the event that the vote to separate from Canada fails in the referendum. Campeau says that sovereignty will protect Quebecers from the federal government's tax increases and deep spending cuts, claiming that Quebec will have to compensate for Ottawa's cuts in equalization payments. The budget forecasts a deficit of \$3.98 billion for 1995-96, down from \$5.7 billion for the previous year, but fails to cut government spending. The PQ is careful to avoid any major tax increases for potential referendum voters; however, it targets big business with an increase in capital taxes and other measures designed to net \$677 million.

10 May 1995
Justice – Reforms

The governments of Manitoba and the Yukon join their counterparts in Alberta and Saskatchewan in opposing the federal government's reforms to gun-control legislation. Yukon Justice Minister Douglas Phillips, like Alberta and Saskatchewan, also asks for exclusion from the legislation, arguing that it will infringe on the treaty rights of natives to hunt.

10 May 1995
*Federal-Provincial
Relations – Quebec;
Disputes*

Quebec Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Louise Beaudoin claims that the federal government owes the province \$333 million for expenses on the education of aboriginal children, stabilization payments falling under a federal revenue-sharing program, and costs associated with the Oka Crisis.

11 May 1995
Fiscal Policy

In an address to the Quebec association of economists, Premier Jacques Parizeau proposes that the federal government leave all income tax collection to Quebec in a scheme similar to the single sales tax system.

15 May 1995
*Social Programs –
Reform*

Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy announces to the House of Commons that he has abandoned one of the key tenets of his social program reforms announced in October, the idea of establishing a two-tiered system of unemployment insurance that would differentiate between repeat users and occasional users.

23 May 1995
*Aboriginal Peoples –
Quebec*

The Quebec government and the Cree announce that, after a six-year dispute, the parties have signed an accord committing both sides to participation in formal talks regarding future development in northern Quebec. Among the topics to be discussed are the issues of native self-government; improved housing and infrastructure and joint partnership in natural resources development. The agreement benefits the government in that it serves to postpone a legal challenge by the Cree regarding Hydro-Québec's Great Whale hydroelectric project; it also demonstrates good faith on the part of the government, which is looking to gain support for its sovereigntist movement — although the issue of Quebec independence does not make the agenda.

- 24 May 1995
Justice – Reform
- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien declares that the federal government will cover the costs associated with the creation of a national gun registry, one of the key proposals in Justice Minister Allan Rock's controversial package of gun control reforms. Although the bill has passed second reading and is being examined by a Commons committee, Rock offers several amendments easing the conditions of the legislation in order to alleviate the concerns of backbench Liberals, police, and the legal community. Among the changes are limitations on the power of police to inspect the homes of gun owners and reduction in the penalty for first-time gun registry violations.
- 28 May 1995
Sovereignty – Quebec
- At a meeting of the Parti Québécois' national council in Quebec City, Premier Jacques Parizeau works through proposals aimed at creating an association between Canada and an independent Quebec. Parizeau says that he is prepared to reconcile and work with the federal government for up to one year after a positive vote in the critical referendum declaring Quebec to be a sovereign nation.
- 29 May 1995
Aboriginal Peoples
- Health Minister Diane Marleau announces the creation of the Aboriginal Head Start program, a four-year, \$84 million initiative established to finance local projects to motivate young Aboriginals and to promote health and education.
- 30 May 1995
Sovereignty – Quebec
- Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Marcel Massé confirms that the federal government will make no new constitutional offers to Quebec before the referendum on independence.
- 2 June 1995
Transportation – Reforms
- Transportation Minister Doug Young announces that the federal government will no longer finance small ports across Canada. Under the initiative the ports are to be divided into three classes. While key ports are to remain under federal jurisdiction, management of others is relinquished to provincial and municipal governments as well as private individuals.
- 6 June 1995
Fisheries – West Coast
- More than 300 fishermen in British Columbia file a class-action suit in B.C. Supreme Court against federal Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin and his department for the alleged

mismanagement of the B.C. salmon fishery. The fishermen are challenging a 1992, five-year initiative of the former Conservative government which afforded special fishing rights to native fishermen, claiming that the initiative has cost them money and that native fishermen have been taking advantage of the agreement by fishing illegally.

8 June 1995
Elections – Ontario

In an overwhelming sweep Mike Harris leads the Conservatives to a majority government, defeating the NDP government led by Premier Bob Rae and capturing 82 of the province's 130 seats. It is the first time that the Conservatives have been in power in Ontario for ten years. The Liberals retain their position as the Official Opposition with 30 seats, while the New Democrats kept only 17. Standings at dissolution of the legislature were: NDP, 69; Liberals, 34; Conservatives, 21; and Independents, two, with four vacancies.

8 June 1995
Premiers' Conferences

Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau irritates his Canadian colleagues at the 21st conference of eastern premiers and New England governors in Portsmouth, New Hampshire by bringing up the issue of Quebec independence among other issues discussed including energy, the environment, and economic development. The conference also produces resolutions on overfishing off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, and a United Nations treaty on high-seas fishing.

8 June 1995
Sovereignty – Quebec

Ghislain Dufour, president of Quebec's largest employers' group, the Conseil du patronat, says that a number of companies are postponing major investments in the province until after the referendum on independence.

12 June 1995
Sovereignty – Quebec

The leaders of the Bloc Québécois, Parti Québécois, and Parti Action Démocratique ratify an agreement in Quebec City after announcing that their parties are to be united in the common goal of achieving sovereignty for Quebec. In addition to affirming the common front of the three parties, the text of the tripartite agreement proposes several measures designed to develop a partnership with the Canadian federation in the event of separation. Among the

measures proposed in the event that Quebecers vote for sovereignty:

- negotiation of a political and economic partnership treaty with the rest of Canada within one year of the referendum;
- maintenance of the Canadian dollar as the official currency of a sovereign Quebec;
- the creation of a Partnership Council with decision-making powers over the implementation of the partnership treaty;
- establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly to examine draft decisions of the Partnership Council and to make recommendations;
- creation of a tribunal to resolve disputes relating to the treaty; and the
- organization of an orientation and supervisory committee to oversee the negotiations.

13 June 1995
Justice – Reforms

Bill C-68, the federal government's package of legislation designed to reform gun control is passed by a majority of MPs in the House of Commons with a vote of 192 to 63.

14 June 1995
Social Program – Reforms

The National Council of Welfare, an independent agency appointed by the federal government, denounces federal plans to consolidate transfer payments for health, postsecondary education, and social assistance into one package. The Council claims that under the initiatives of the new federal budget, the provinces will be provided with greater opportunities to limit spending on welfare.

15 June 1995
Budgets – Quebec

Moody's Investors Service downgrades the rating on long-term bonds in that province from A1 to A2, given the minimal progress made in the area of deficit-reduction within the last three years and the service's concerns over the government's preoccupation with its separatist agenda.

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