
Chronology of Events January 2002 – December 2002

Adele Mugford with Aaron Holdway

An index of these events begins on page 513

8 January 2002
Health

The Premier's Advisory Council on Health releases the Alberta-commissioned Mazankowski Report on health care reform proposals. A major recommendation includes a new health "debit" card that automatically displays a patient's medical history and the cost of health services used. The hope is that this will deter further abuses to the system, while introducing a blended health care system. Also included in the report are recommendations to delist non-essential services from medicare and to increase health care premiums. Federal Health Minister Allan Rock praises the report, but Roy Romanow — who is heading a separate but similar commission at the national level — is critical of its abandonment of medicare based upon an assumption that it is unsustainable.

16 January 2002
Atlantic Canada

MP Gerry Byrne of the Barbe-Baie Verte riding is sworn into Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's Cabinet as minister of state responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and will replace Brian Tobin as regional minister.

17 January 2002
British Columbia

The British Columbia government unveils a three-year restructuring plan aimed at reducing operating costs and delivering services more efficiently. These plans include a 25 percent reduction in departmental funding as a means of addressing a \$3.8-billion deficit, revitalizing investment, and creating new economic growth to sustain and renew public services. In addition to funding cuts, the government also introduces revenue-making measures, including user fees and the selling off of BC land assets.

21 January 2002
New Brunswick

Premier Bernard Lord announces that the province will ensure that all municipal bylaws are available in both English and French. The province of New Brunswick became officially bilingual in 1969 but until a recent court decision, only provincial laws were required to be available in both languages.

22 January 2002
Alberta

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein announces that his government will adopt all 44 recommendations of the Mazankowski Report on health care reform. The sweeping changes are expected to take three to five years to implement, and will remain consistent with the five principles of the *Canada Health Act*.

24 January 2002
Agriculture

At their meeting in Toronto, federal and provincial agriculture ministers — with the exception of Quebec — report that considerable progress is being made toward a formal agreement on a twenty-first century agricultural policy to boost the long-term success of the industry. The ministers also commit to exploring future-oriented and nationally integrated directions in risk management for the sector.

24-25 January 2002
Premiers' Meeting

The premiers' meeting in Vancouver reiterates the connections between the federal government's inadequate funding of health care and a declining ability to sustain its quality. They agree to establish a Premiers' Council on Canadian Health Awareness, expected to be operational before 1 May 2002, with a mandate to gather and disseminate information to Canadians on health care issues in all jurisdictions. Premiers also ask Ralph Klein of Alberta to work with the federal government to finalize a dispute resolution mechanism — for the purposes of

clarifying the *Canada Health Act* — by 30 April 2002. Other significant outcomes include: an agreement (excluding Quebec) to follow the lead of the Atlantic provinces and develop a common review process for new pharmaceutical drugs, as well as a process for streamlining generic drug approvals; an agreement — excluding Quebec — to develop Sites of Excellence in various fields across the country to ensure higher quality care and more efficient spending; and a call on the federal government to fulfil commitments to Aboriginal health services made in last year's Speech from the Throne.

25 January 2002
Health

The provincial and territorial premiers, after a two-day meeting, issue an ultimatum to Ottawa to reach an agreement on settling disputes under the *Canada Health Act*. The provinces and territories have set 30 April 2002 as the deadline for a federal-provincial and a federal-territorial agreement. They further suggest that a failure to meet this deadline would indicate that Ottawa is abandoning the Social Union Framework Agreement.

30 January 2002
Quebec

The Parti Québécois' new Cabinet is sworn in with a view to strengthening its chances for re-election in the upcoming election that must be called within the next year. Notable appointees include former Speaker Jean-Pierre Charbonneau as minister of intergovernmental affairs, Montreal anglophone David Levine as junior health minister, and André Boisclair as House leader and minister of municipal affairs (which are added to his environment responsibilities). Sylvain Simard drops the Treasury Board in exchange for the education portfolio, François Legault moves from education to health, and two young rookies — Stéphane Bédard and Jean-François Simard — are added to the now 36-member Cabinet. The Cabinet has been increased in size by 13 members.

6 February 2002
Health

The interim report of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada, headed by Roy Romanow, is released, setting the stage for the second phase of the commission: consultation and dialogue with the Canadian public. The report is intended to promote understanding of the issues by Canadians, as well as engage the public in a national dialogue. It also stresses that

medicare must be remodelled instead of dismantled, and asks that all reform options be considered in the coming debates.

- 7 February 2002
Aboriginal Peoples Quebec Premier Bernard Landry and Cree Grand Chief Ted Moses sign an agreement to recognize a new relationship between the Cree of Quebec and the provincial government. This marks the first time that recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples have been applied in Canada. In particular, the agreement will see the Cree drop all lawsuits against the province and consent to the construction of the Rupert-Eastmain hydro-electric project in return for payments totalling \$3.4 billion over the next 50 years. A deal made outside of the agreement with Hydro-Quebec guarantees \$862 million in contracts to the Cree for building and environmental cleanup.
- 13-14 February 2002
Justice Federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for justice meet in Moncton, NB, to discuss a wide range of issues. They discuss implementation of the *Anti-Terrorism Act*, expressing general support for new hoax offence provisions; cost-sharing of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, agreeing, with the exception of Quebec, to a target date of April 2003 for the new Act to come into force; the creation of two new offences under the Criminal Code concerning acts of criminal voyeurism and distributing visual images through the Internet and by other means; and further measures to create a national approach to sex offender registration for police use.
- 15 February 2002
Municipalities A dozen mayors from Canada's largest cities gather in Ottawa in connection with ongoing efforts to pressure senior governments for more powers. The agenda centres upon building the advocacy process for urban needs. Several federal Cabinet ministers are also involved in this conference, which the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has organized with a view to facilitating improved federal-municipal relations.
- 19 February 2002
British Columbia In addition to announcing that its fiscal plan is ahead of schedule, the British Columbia government's budget

reveals the deficit and the debt will be \$600 million and \$3.5 billion lower, respectively, than had been anticipated. Vowing to stick with its original fiscal plan to balance the budget by 2004-2005, the BC government will further realize the BC Heartlands Economic Strategy and will complete and implement economic development plans across the province. These plans include new partnerships with First Nations groups; new investments in transportation and infrastructure; new opportunities for tourism, sport, and recreation (via the 2010 Winter Olympics bid); and a restructured forest industry.

20 February 2002
Northwest Territories

Boasting a strong economy and increased opportunity for residents and businesses, the Northwest Territories budget reviews its investments and developments with respect to employment, literacy, its Social Agenda, transportation infrastructure, and non-renewable resources. It also alludes to concurrent pressures, including housing shortages, increased demand on community infrastructure, and social and environmental issues. Ultimately, however, the budget's main theme is about balance — in terms of revenues and spending, economic and social investments, resource development, and environmental protection.

21 February 2002
Trade

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and the provincial premiers wrap up a trade mission to Germany by acknowledging the imperative of eliminating interprovincial trade barriers in connection with attracting European investment. Further to this acknowledgement, New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord and Alberta Premier Ralph Klein agree to head a federal-provincial committee on trade barriers.

28 February 2002
Equalization

Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin suspends cuts to equalization payments due to a change in calculation methods of residential real-estate values for Quebec, but will go ahead with changes to the indices used to calculate payments. Originally Quebec would have been short \$800 million, but will now incur a loss of \$334 million. Newfoundland and Labrador also have a \$6-million cut suspended, while all other provinces benefiting from the change do not have their new funds suspended.

5 March 2002
Environment

Federal Minister of the Environment David Anderson outlines his plan to implement the Kyoto Accord, stating that the biggest greenhouse gas producers must reduce emissions or purchase emission credits from other domestic or international companies. He also suggests Ottawa purchase credits from abroad to distribute to industries or parts of the country that have trouble meeting the Accord's targets, as well as measures designed to reduce emissions from other sources, such as municipalities.

7 March 2002
Ontario

James Bartleman is sworn in as the 41st Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, becoming the first Aboriginal person to hold this position. He leaves his post as the head of the Mission of Canada to the European Union and a distinguished career spanning more than 35 years in the Canadian foreign service. Born in Orillia, ON, Bartleman grew up in Muskoka, ON, and belongs to the Minjikanig First Nation.

7 March 2002
Aboriginal Peoples

In the case of *Benoit v Canada*, the Federal Court of Canada rules that an oral agreement made during the signing of Treaty 8 (encompassing northern Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, and the southern Northwest Territories) is equal to treaty terms. The decision means that Aboriginal peoples within the Treaty 8 territory, whether they are living on- or off-reserve, are exempt from all taxes. This ruling is expected to have implications on treaty rights all across Canada.

9 March 2002
Ontario

The Ontario government implements a series of tough new regulations affecting Quebec construction workers as a means of countering conditions in Quebec which do not allow Ontario companies fair access to its construction market. Under the new regulations, Quebec workers will have to meet certain criteria to document their competency and register with the Ontario Jobs Protection Office in order to legally work in Ontario. Additionally, Quebec companies wanting to set up an office in Ontario will be required to register and post a bond as proof of financial stability. Any contracts signed before 9 March 2002 will not be subject to the new rules. Earlier in the year, talks between the Ontario and Quebec governments dedicated to renewing the agreement that governed access rules over

the past two years, broke off after Ontario Labour Minister Chris Stockwell accused Quebec officials of being unco-operative and inflexible.

12 March 2002
British Columbia

British Columbia Attorney General Geoff Plant introduces the eight questions that will form the basis of a provincial referendum on the Aboriginal treaty process. Ballots will be mailed out on 2 April and must be returned by 15 May. The results will be binding on the government if more than 50 percent vote the same way. Critics claim this process is a waste of time, saying that answers to the referendum questions have already been determined.

13 March 2002
Parliament

Electoral boundaries will begin to be rewritten today as the number of seats in the House of Commons will rise from 301 to 308 by 2004. Ontario will have three new federal electoral districts, and Alberta and British Columbia will each have two new electoral districts.

13 March 2002
Aboriginal Peoples

The British Columbia government announces it will kick off its referendum on Aboriginal treaties with an apology. Attorney General Geoff Plant explains that the government wishes to introduce the issue of reconciliation at the negotiation table, including an expression of regret by the government.

19 March 2002
Newfoundland and Labrador

The Newfoundland and Labrador government appoints a Royal Commission to review the province's place in Canada, with a view to securing a better deal with Ottawa. Premier Roger Grimes further explains the importance of this Royal Commission as a means of renewing and strengthening Newfoundland and Labrador's place in Canada and reinforcing its contribution to the Canadian fabric. The details of the Royal Commission and the terms of reference are to be announced at a later date.

19 March 2002
Alberta

The Alberta government announces its new budget. In addition to forecasting a balanced budget, continuing to pay down the province's debt, and maintaining Alberta's tax advantage, spending priorities include health, education, and "those in need." The Department of Health and Wellness and Learning and Children's Services received the largest influx of new funding. With a view to avoiding

any erosion to the “Alberta Advantage,” this budget scales back on a promise of \$275 million in corporate tax breaks until oil and gas revenues stabilize.

19 March 2002
Quebec

The Quebec government announces a \$300-million anti-poverty plan — the centrepiece of a revised provincial budget — including tax breaks for low-income families and more money for welfare recipients. The money for this plan comes from an increase in tax revenue of \$586 million since the budget was first tabled in November 2001.

21 March 2002
*Newfoundland and
Labrador*

The Newfoundland and Labrador government announces its new budget. Highlights include strong economic performance forecasts for 2002, a greater emphasis on youth, and continued high priorities for health, jobs, and economic growth. Funding remains stable for families, municipalities, and infrastructure.

21 March 2002
Trade

Negotiators fail to meet the deadline to resolve the two-year-old softwood lumber dispute between Canada and the United States. Talks between the two countries subsequently collapse in the face of what Minister of International Trade Pierre Pettigrew describes as an “unreasonable” eleventh-hour offer. As a result, Canadians must now prepare for the new permanent duties of up to 32 percent on their annual \$10 billion in lumber shipments to the US. It is estimated that this will cost the industry a minimum of \$1 billion per year. British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta — the four largest lumber-producing provinces — will be most affected by the US duties being imposed in connection with claims of provincial government subsidies and unfair dumping.

23 March 2002
Ontario

Ernie Eves is elected to replace Mike Harris as leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party and becomes the 23rd premier of Ontario. Although currently without a seat in the legislature, Eves served as Ontario’s deputy premier and minister of finance from June 1995 to February 2001. Eves was born in Windsor in 1946 and attended the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School at York University. He was called to the bar in 1972 and was made a Queen’s Counsel in January 1983.

- 27 March 2002
Aboriginal Peoples Mi'kmaq chiefs sign a proclamation directing Ottawa and Newfoundland and Labrador to recognize that treaties signed in 1760-1761 cover all Mi'kmaq. The impetus for the proclamation comes from demands made by the Maritime Mi'kmaq chiefs that treaty rights, including access to the fisheries, be extended to 800 to 1,000 Mi'kmaq living in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- 4 April 2002
Nova Scotia After experiencing a \$106-million deficit for the 2001-2002 fiscal year, Nova Scotia Finance Minister Neil LeBlanc unveils Nova Scotia's first balanced budget in 40 years. The surplus projection is attributed to increased revenues — chiefly from increased taxes on alcohol, gas, and tobacco — and reduced spending.
- 9 April 2002
Aboriginal Peoples Quebec Premier Bernard Landry; Minister of State for Population, Regions, and Native Affairs, Rémy Trudel; President of the Makivik Corporation, Pita Aatami; and Chairman of the Kativik Regional Government, Johnny N. Adams, sign a \$900-million partnership agreement between the government of Quebec and the Nunavik Inuit of northern Quebec. The agreement promises to accelerate economic and community development in northern Quebec. The 25-year deal was reached during the annual general meeting of the Makivik Corporation, a forum for bringing together representatives from 14 Inuit communities and Nunavik's major socio-economic stakeholders to address issues related to finance, governance, public services, and infrastructure in Nunavik.
- 9 April 2002
Political Parties Canadian Alliance leader Stephen Harper and Progressive Conservative leader Joe Clark announce during separate media briefings that efforts to unite their parties have failed. Each claims different reasons for the inability to find common ground. Critics suggest this failure raises questions about Clark's tenure as Conservative leader.
- 9-10 April 2002
Education At a meeting in Toronto, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, declares 8-14 September International Adult Learners Week, to coincide with the worldwide event established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The focus

of discussions is placed upon the importance of adult learning and innovation in this sector, as well as a call on government to amend the *Copyright Act* so as to increase reasonable and equitable access to materials on the Internet.

15 April 2002
Political Parties

François Corriveau wins the former Parti Québécois stronghold of Saguenay in today's byelection and will join Action démocratique du Québec (ADQ) leader Mario Dumont in the Quebec legislative assembly.

15 April 2002
Ontario

Ontario Premier-designate Ernie Eves appoints a new Cabinet, naming Elizabeth Witmer as both deputy premier and minister of education and Janet Ecker as minister of finance. Jim Flaherty becomes responsible for a new "super-ministry" to replace the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade that will also include portions of the Ministry of Energy, Science, and Technology. Chris Hodgson, who remains minister of municipal affairs and housing, will assume control over some of the province's \$20 billion SuperBuild public-works infrastructure program. Tony Clement remains minister of health.

24 April 2002
Health

All provinces and territories, with the exception of Quebec, accept a proposal on third-party dispute resolution regarding the *Canada Health Act*, submitted by federal Health Minister Anne McLellan. The proposal states that the two levels of government will discuss differences before going to a panel. The panel will consist of one member chosen by the federal government, one chosen by the provincial government, and a chairperson agreed to by both parties. Resolutions are non-binding, however, and the power of final decision resides with the federal health minister.

1 May 2002
Aboriginal Peoples

The Federal Court of Canada orders a stay of judgment on the *Benoit v Canada* case giving Treaty 8 Aboriginal peoples absolute tax-free status. The stay — deemed a victory for the federal government — gives officials time to adjust to the changes in government revenues and tax-free goods.

- 7 May 2002
Quebec
- The Quebec government introduces legislation to tighten its French Language Charter to address what Premier Bernard Landry calls a “loophole” in the current law. Bill 104, which includes new guidelines to make it more difficult for immigrant and francophone children to attend English public schools, will be passed by spring. More specifically, children will no longer gain eligibility to attend English public schools after spending one year in an English private school, nor will the government continue to provide Quebec-based companies written communication in English.
- 9 May 2002
Ontario
- Ontario Premier Ernie Eves’ first Throne Speech claims a new era has begun under a new government with new challenges and new solutions. The Eves government explains that it wants to listen to and work in partnership with educators, health care workers, parents, and any other identifiable groups. There are suggestions of increased per-student funding and promises to review the funding formula via a special task force, which is expected to report back in November. In addition to renewing commitments made during his leadership campaign — to establish three-year base funding for school boards — the Eves government is promising to spend more money on the search for a cure for cancer and to more fully utilize MRI machines.
- 9 May 2002
Finance
- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien promises to apply the year’s entire federal budget surplus — predicted to be about \$10 billion — to reducing the \$540-billion national debt.
- 21 May 2002
Climate Change
- Federal and provincial energy and environment ministers (with the exception of Alberta) meet in Charlottetown to discuss climate change and Canada’s options to address the implications of the Kyoto Accord. Ministers agree to a National Adaptation Framework, which will assist jurisdictions to adapt to the impacts of climate change. They also release *Canada’s National Climate Change Business Plan 2002*, which outlines governmental and non-governmental initiatives designed to address climate change.

29 May 2002
Ontario

Ontario Energy Minister Chris Stockwell announces new legislation to enable the sale of the Hydro One power grid and other provincial assets. The legislation — the *Reliable Energy and Consumer Protection Act* — will make changes to the *Electricity Act* and will secure the Ontario government's ownership of the lands underneath the hydro transmission corridors with a view to keeping them available for public use. The government further suggests that leasing the power grid to the private sector may prove to be a viable alternative to selling the utility outright. Other features of the new hydro legislation include increasing consumer protection by providing the Ontario Energy Board with more power, establishing a new energy consumers' bill of rights, tightening the rules surrounding marketing of energy contracts to consumers, and prohibiting false advertising.

30 May 2002
Affordable Housing Agreement

The federal and Ontario governments sign an Affordable Housing Program Agreement that will help to increase the supply of affordable housing in the province through increased funding. The federal government will provide \$244 million, which will then be matched by a collective of the Ontario government, municipalities, and private and non-profit partners. The money will be made available over the next five years.

30 May 2002
Prince Edward Island

The Prince Edward Island government announces that it will fight to overturn a federal fisheries decision to shut out 28 lobster fishermen from their fishing grounds. (The fishermen had been informed they were illegally fishing in Quebec waters and were forced to remove their traps.) PEI will argue that the area in question — located roughly nine kilometres off its coast — is much closer to PEI than to Quebec.

31 May 2002
Social Services

Federal and provincial social services ministers meet in Toronto to discuss the success of the National Child Benefit over the past few years, as well as how to facilitate continued program progress and how to improve and expand programs and services with respect to the commitment made to Early Childhood Development in the Annual Premiers' Conference of 2000. Each participating government has agreed to work

autonomously in this effort in order to best meet each province's particular needs. Governments will issue progress reports in the fall.

4-6 June 2002
Western Canada

The Western Premiers' Conference takes place in Dawson City, YT. Most notably, the premiers address the significant progress on Early Childhood Development since last year's conference, as well as an agreement between the federal government and Alberta, on behalf of the provinces and territories, establishing a dispute resolution mechanism regarding the *Canada Health Act*. The mechanism includes an important role for independent third parties to provide publicly-released recommendations. Other topics of discussion include subsidies provided by the United States to its farmers. Accordingly, the provinces are looking to the federal government to provide a trade injury payment to Canadian farmers to offset the impact of the trade-distorting practices. These demands are coupled with a request for the federal government to take aggressive trade action through the World Trade Organization by challenging these subsidies. Climate change is another major area of discussion, resulting in an agreement to pursue new and emerging energy sources and technology. Infrastructure, trade, health, and education are also discussed at the conference.

7 June 2002
Municipalities

Following a week-long meeting in Montreal, QC, the C-5 — mayors of five of Canada's largest cities; Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, and Winnipeg — issue a unified call for increased federal funding and for the federal government to make changes to the way municipalities are funded. These demands go hand-in-hand with the C-5's requests for a seat at the table during the next First Ministers' Conference, with hopes for a discussion of new revenue-sharing ideas, and of gaining recognition as an order of government.

12 June 2002
Ontario

Ontario Premier Ernie Eves reverses the Conservative government's intentions to sell Hydro One through a public stock offering, thereby ending the initial public offering and possibly the largest privatization move in Canadian history.

15 June 2002

Aboriginal Peoples

The federal government tables Bill C-61, the *First Nations Governance Act* — the first major overhaul of the 126 year-old *Indian Act* — which proposes to amend sections of the *Indian Act* relating to financial and operational accountability, powers and authorities, elections and leadership selection, and legal standing capacity. The new Act requires Aboriginal bands to establish stricter standards for choosing leaders and managing financial affairs. In the event that rules are not tightened in prescribed areas, the federal government reserves the right to design and impose stricter rules for the band councils. Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Robert Nault explains that Bill C-61 makes band councils directly accountable to the people they represent. Critics of the bill, however, suggest that the Act will not only infringe upon Aboriginal and treaty rights, but will further entrench, not limit, the minister's power over Aboriginal peoples. This Act, if passed, will not apply to bands with self-government agreements.

17 June 2002

Political Parties

The Action démocratique du Québec (ADQ) wins three of four byelections in Quebec and 45.4 percent of all votes cast in the four ridings. The victories include Berthier, Joliette, and Vimont ridings and boost the ADQ's presence to five of the 125 seats in the National Assembly. The Liberals finish second in one of the byelections, and the Parti Québécois finishes second in the other three.

17 June 2002

Ontario

In his first budget, Ontario Premier Ernie Eves boosts spending on health care, education, and environmental protection. Relying on tobacco taxes and gambling revenues to finance these spending increases, the Eves government also follows through on corporate tax cuts and the phasing-in of tax credits for parents of children attending private schools. Moreover, both income and residential education property taxes will be reduced.

20 June 2002

Agriculture

The federal government unveils a farm aid program. In addition to committing \$5.2 billion — including \$1.2 billion in emergency aid — over the next two years, the federal government is hoping to sign an agreement with

provincial agriculture ministers when they meet the following week in Halifax. Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are all critical of the proposal, however, saying it provides yet more inadequate emergency funding. They point to the way in which it divides farm groups along regional lines to create program cost inequities (Saskatchewan residents, for example, will pay \$80 while Ontarians will pay \$8), and to the criteria requiring the provinces to contribute 40 percent of the total \$8.2 billion in aid. Despite these criticisms, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture welcomes the package, praising it for helping to move producers past current challenges and into the long-term policy framework.

24 June 2002
Housing

The federal and Alberta governments sign an Affordable Housing Agreement with a view to addressing the housing crisis. The federal government will provide \$67 million, which will be matched by a combination of provincial, municipal, private, and non-profit funds, and will go towards affordable housing projects in high-need areas throughout the province. Beneficiaries of the affordable housing initiatives include low-income families and individuals with special needs.

27-28 June 2002
Agriculture

In Halifax, NS, agriculture ministers from both orders of government sign the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agreement on Agriculture and Agri-food for the Twenty-First Century. Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, and Nunavut do not sign, but retain the option of doing so at a later date. The agreement represents a long-term commitment to ensuring the sector's profitability, and sets the stage for implementing the five-year Agricultural Policy Framework discussed at last year's meeting in Whitehorse, YT.

28 June 2002
Housing

The federal and Saskatchewan governments sign an Affordable Housing Agreement. The increase in funding amounts to a total of \$45.8 million, with half coming from the federal government and the other half provided by a joint consortium of provincial, municipal, private, and non-profit donors. The funding will allow 1,000 new affordable housing units to be built over the next five years.

1 July 2002
*Supreme Court of
Canada*

Supreme Court Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé steps down from the bench as the longest-serving judge on the high court. With a career spanning more than two decades, L'Heureux-Dubé is further recognized as the second woman to sit on Canada's most senior bench. L'Heureux-Dubé served 15 years with the Supreme Court and was appointed by former prime minister Brian Mulroney.

3 July 2002
Aboriginal Peoples

British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell announces the success of the government's mail-in referendum on Aboriginal treaties. British Columbians, Campbell explains, are overwhelmingly in support of the eight proposals outlined in the referendum, given that of the more than two million ballots the government mailed out, 763,000 were returned. Native leaders announce, however, that more than 40,000 British Columbians sent their ballots to them in protest of the referendum. The results of the mail-in ballots are legally binding on the government under the *Referendum Act*. Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia are waiting to see how Premier Campbell will interpret the referendum results. However, Herb George — an executive member of the First Nations Summit that is representing Aboriginal groups involved in treaty negotiations — says that if the inherent right to self-government is not on the table, neither party will be at the negotiating table.

15 July 2002
*Federal Court of
Canada*

Saskatchewan Aboriginal leaders filed a Federal Court challenge against the *First Nations Governance Act*, which was tabled by the federal government in June. The challenge says the Act contravenes section 35 of the Constitution — the right to self-government — and argues that it turns band councils into legal corporations following federal rules.

16-18 July 2002
Aboriginal Peoples

Approximately 900 delegates gather for the Annual Assembly of First Nations meeting in Kahnawake, QC, and almost unanimously reject the *First Nations Governance Act* tabled by the federal government in June. The rejection centres on claims that Bill C-61 weakens the relationship between the government and First Nations upheld in the Constitution, in treaties, in the courts, and

in self-government agreements. Assembly of First Nations National Chief Matthew Coon Come further suggests that the Act ignores First Nations priorities — specifically poverty and unemployment. Despite the near-complete rejection of Bill C-61, the 200 chiefs with voting rights at the meeting are unable to reach a decision of how to proceed in fighting the Act.

30 July 2002

Trade

Nova Scotia Fisheries Minister Ernie Fage accuses New Brunswick, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador of unfair trading practices with respect to the crab industry. Mailing letters to all three of the accused provinces last week, Fage is initiating an appeal under the Agreement on Internal Trade.

31 July-2 August
2002

Premiers' Meeting

At the 43rd Annual Premiers' Conference in Halifax, NS, the provincial and territorial leaders agree on the necessity of a First Ministers' Conference in the near future to directly discuss and negotiate contentious issues, such as health care and climate change, with the prime minister. Insufficient federal funding, health care, climate change, and trade — issues raised in a recent report from the Conference Board of Canada — all receive the premiers' attention. The premiers address Canada's fiscal imbalance and projections of federal surpluses and provincial-territorial deficits, and their plans to call on the federal government to restore health and social service spending to at least 18 percent with an appropriate escalator, to remove the ceiling on equalization, and to stand by constitutional, fiduciary, treaty, and health service obligations to Aboriginal peoples. The premiers recognize the importance of negotiating Canada's trade relationship with the United States to ensure fair and secure access to markets, but stress the importance of pursuing appeals against market-distorting subsidies through the World Trade Organization and the North American Free Trade Agreement. The premiers also cite the importance of a federal initiative to assess domestic damages caused by these international trade actions, as well as the provision for appropriate trade injury payments to those negatively affected.

- 1 August 2002
Aboriginal Peoples
- Burnt Church First Nation and Fisheries and Oceans Canada sign an agreement-in-principle three years following the conflict at Miramichi Bay, NB. In 1999, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed through the *Marshall* decision a treaty right to fish to achieve a moderate livelihood. Of the 34 First Nations affected by the Supreme Court decision, 31 are in agreement with the provisions for access to commercial fisheries, which include licensing, vessels, gear, and other capacity-building measures.
- 12-13 August 2002
Municipalities
- British Columbia Minister of Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Services George Abbott hosts the two-day annual meeting for ministers to exchange information concerning local governance priorities and discover new ways to work with local governments.
- 19 August 2002
Municipalities
- At a gathering of over 500 mayors and councillors in Toronto, Ontario Premier Ernie Eves announces the creation of a \$1-billion account to assist struggling municipalities in paying for infrastructure and other projects. The purpose of the account is to generate a pool of capital for municipalities to access at low interest rates. The provincial government says it will also research ways to share its tax revenues with municipalities to pay for specific initiatives. Other announcements include promises to continue upgrading water and sewer works, to improve public transportation, and to establish a stable, multi-year funding agreement with local governments.
- 21 August 2002
Prime Minister
- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announces that he will retire in February 2004. This comes as a surprise to his Liberal Party, but is intended to put an end to the leadership civil war plaguing his party since June 2002. Chrétien explains that he will focus on governing and fulfilling his mandate from now until February 2004. Although Paul Martin supporters may not be happy with Chrétien's departure date, the only way to enforce an earlier retirement date would be for Martin to defeat Chrétien in a party-wide vote of confidence on his leadership.
- 27 August 2002
Fisheries
- One day after suggesting the sockeye salmon fishery would likely remain closed for the rest of the season, Fisheries and

Oceans Canada reopens the commercial fishery in British Columbia's lucrative Fraser River. This decision comes one day after protests by commercial harvesters in BC's Johnstone Strait resulted in 40 charges being laid. Denying any links between today's decision and the charges laid, Fisheries and Oceans Canada explains that the commercial sockeye salmon commercial fishery is reopening after new numbers increased the run size from 5.8 million to 6.5 million.

4-5 September 2002
Health

The federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of health meet in Banff, AB, to discuss efforts to improve publicly-funded health care and to ensure that the needs of Canadians continue to be met, now and in the future. The core issues on the agenda include a common drug review, accountability, human health resources, nursing, healthy living, tobacco, quality health services, emergency preparedness, and the future of health care. Commitments range from establishing a single, common drug review to continuing to make the Nursing Strategy of Canada a priority, to working together on pan-Canadian "healthy living" strategies emphasizing nutrition, physical fitness, and healthy weight.

7 September 2002
Quebec

Quebec Premier Bernard Landry sets a deadline for achieving Quebec independence within 1,000 days or three years, provided the Parti Québécois is re-elected the following year and there is growth in sovereignty support. Landry further outlines his intentions not to call an election for another 300 days. These announcements are made in the context of a drop in support for sovereignty, anti-referendum sentiments, and historic lows in support for the PQ. Moreover, the PQ's chances of winning a third straight term are questioned in the face of history: the last time a party won three consecutive terms in Quebec was in 1956.

17 September 2002
Geoscience

Federal Minister of Natural Resources Herb Dhaliwal and Manitoba Minister of Industry, Trade, and Mines, Mary Ann Mihychuk, sign a renewal of the Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord, which defines the complementary roles and responsibilities of governments with respect to geoscience. Originally signed in 1996, the purpose of the accord is to encourage good working relationships among

government geological survey organizations within Canada. It seeks to harness their strengths and increase their effectiveness by defining different but complementary roles and responsibilities, outlining principles of co-operation to optimize the use of their resources, and establishing mechanisms for co-operation and collaboration among the organizations.

23-24 September
2002
Women

Federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for the status of women meet in Whitehorse, YT, to discuss ways to advance women's equality and to exchange information on a number of important issues affecting women in Canada. Items of discussion include ways to achieve women's economic independence, to address violence against women, and to improve women's health.

24 September 2002
Forestry

The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers — composed of federal, provincial, and territorial ministers — meets in Halifax, NS, to discuss sustainable forest management and measures for ensuring the future competitiveness of the forestry sector. The ministers express support for a proposed new joint initiative called Forest 2020, which calls for innovation and investments in fast-growing, high-yield tree plantations and intensive silviculture. This would provide a means of significantly boosting the country's supply of wood fibre, as well as contribute to forest ecosystem conservation and greater community sustainability grounded in the smart use of forest resources. Commitments are made to move forward on the direction of the Strategic Plan for the Renewal of the Canadian Forest Fire infrastructure. The ministers also review the progress of the National Forest Strategy Coalition toward the development of a new National Forest Strategy, which is to be released in May 2003.

25 September 2002
Biodiversity

Federal, provincial, and territorial forestry, wildlife, and fisheries ministers meet in Halifax, NS, to discuss ways to protect biodiversity. The meeting comes 10 years after the Rio Earth Summit, and one month after the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. The ministers renew their commitment to

work together to implement the UN Convention on Biological Diversity; review progress on priorities for action under the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy and, as part of this review, approve a national blueprint for addressing the threat of invasive species; approve Canada's Stewardship Agenda, which will increase participation by Canadians in biodiversity conservation; review a number of initiatives in support of the objectives of the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk; and release statements on steps their jurisdictions will take to protect 32 species designated threatened, endangered, or extirpated by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada in 2001.

26 September 2002
Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Provincial Auditor Fred Wendel announces a \$483-million deficit for the province's New Democratic Party coalition government. This announcement comes in the wake of the government's prediction in early August that it would have a \$100,000 surplus. Premier Lorne Calvert blames the drought for its financial situation.

26 September 2002
Fisheries

The Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers, which is composed of federal, provincial, and territorial ministers, meets to discuss concerns and review progress regarding a number of joint initiatives. The focus is on balancing the use and management of the oceans in connection with global concerns voiced at the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, for protecting ocean resources and rebuilding depleted fish stocks. The ministers agree to work toward implementing Canada's Ocean Strategy objectives, which entail a broad strategic approach to oceans management and emphasize the need for collaboration and co-operation between and among governments. Revisions are also made to a plan for the development of a comprehensive Canadian Action Plan for Aquaculture. This aims at ensuring that provincial, territorial, and federal policies and regulations are complementary and sets out objectives for strengthening the industry's competitiveness. The ministers give an approval-in-principle to the updated National Freshwater Fisheries Strategy and the delivery

of the intergovernmental implementation plan for 2002-2003, which set out co-operative objectives and actions for the conservation and sustainable use of freshwater fisheries and habitat in Canada.

27 September 2002
Fisheries

Federal Fisheries Minister Robert Thibault introduces a new policy to put an end to over-fishing on the edge of Newfoundland and Labrador's Grand Banks. In particular, the new federal measures will penalize individual vessels caught breaking international fishing rules outside Canada's territorial waters by denying them access to Canadian ports. Critics find the new policy weak, saying that many of the over-fishing problems stem from European Union ships that do not use Canadian ports.

30 September 2002
Supreme Court of Canada

Marie Deschamps is sworn in to replace Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé, who retired on July 1. Deschamps joins two other women on the bench and represents Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's fifth Supreme Court appointment since he came to power in 1993. A well-respected Quebec Court of Appeal judge, Deschamps has served on Quebec's high court since 1992 and is well known as a tough but fair jurist specializing in commercial litigation. Born in Repentigny, QC, and educated at the University of Montreal and McGill University, Deschamps was called to the bar in 1975.

30 September 2002
Softwood Lumber

The federal Cabinet approves an aid package to help workers and communities across Canada deal with the economic and social impacts of the US-imposed duties on Canadian softwood lumber. The assistance will be largely directed to the provinces and the industry through the Employment Insurance program to help companies offer training and job-sharing to displaced workers. Ottawa will also help the British Columbia government and forest industry deal with a pine beetle infestation. The federal Cabinet refuses, however, to help cover the legal fees stemming from the softwood lumber court battle.

3-4 October 2002
Francophone Affairs

The annual federal-provincial-territorial Ministerial Conference on Francophone Affairs takes place in St. John's, NL, providing a forum for governments to reaffirm their commitments and priorities relating to the delivery of

French-language services and the development of francophone and Acadian communities. Discussion of provincial and territorial governments' key role in the implementation of certain components of the federal action plan is important in connection with the upcoming renewal of federal-provincial-territorial agreements on the promotion of official languages. Moreover, a review of current and planned initiatives and approaches concerning health services, early childhood development, visibility of French, dialogue with the community, and provincial-territorial co-operation on regional activities further underlines the importance of the intergovernmental agreements and suggests where and how improvements can be made.

4 October 2002
National Parks

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announces that 10 new national parks and five new marine conservation areas will be created over the next five years. The parks will protect more than 100,000 square kilometers of wilderness and marine habitat in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories. Negotiations with provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal leaders will take place over the next few months.

8 October 2002
Health

In her most recent report, Auditor General Sheila Fraser criticizes the federal government over its administration of health care delivery. The report accuses the government of not knowing how much money it contributes to the health care system, and charges that the government is not adequately enforcing compliance with the *Canada Health Act*.

8-9 October 2002
Education

The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, meets in Winnipeg, MB, to discuss issues of assessment, student mobility, and online learning. The ministers adopt a ministerial statement that will lead to a pan-Canadian system of credit transfer among colleges and universities. The primary purpose of such a system is to increase access to post-secondary education and to improve student mobility. The ministers also agree to set up a pan-Canadian portal on online learning and to move forward with the federal

government on exploring potential improvements to student financial assistance programs. At the end of the meeting, education and labour market ministers release a paper entitled *Working Together to Strengthen Learning and Labour Market Training*, presenting their shared visions and immediate priorities for post-secondary education and labour market training.

16 October 2002
Immigration

Federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for immigration hold their first meeting in Winnipeg, MB. This represents the beginning of a new partnership on immigration with a number of agreements for co-operation in several different immigration-related areas. Discussions focus on the need to enhance Canada's ability to attract more skilled immigrants to address skill shortages and further develop the Canadian labour market and economy, approaches to increasing the benefits of immigration in all parts of Canada, attracting immigrants to smaller centres and other regions, developing broad principles for guiding the implementation of regional strategies, and removing the barriers that many immigrants face in integrating into the labour market. Of particular note is the establishment of a working group to guide the implementation of strategies focused upon supporting and assisting immigrants in concert with Human Resources Development Canada.

28 October 2002
Northwest Territories

Northwest Territories Premier Stephen Kakfwi succeeds in fending off a second backbencher challenge to his leadership, albeit with reduced political support, in a 10-5 vote.

28 October 2002
Climate Change

Provincial and territorial ministers of energy and the environment gather for a joint meeting on climate change policy. In addition to reiterating a call for a First Ministers' Conference on climate change policy prior to any federal decision, the ministers announce a set of 12 principles to be followed in the drafting of a national climate change plan. This list is in response to the federal framework and the federal government's announcement that it will ratify the Kyoto Accord before the end of the year.

- 30 October 2002
Economic and Fiscal Update
- Federal Finance Minister John Manley delivers his 2002 Economic and Fiscal Update speech to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. Manley says Canadians are reaping the benefits of sound economic and fiscal management, pointing to five consecutive budget surpluses, the paying down of more than \$46 billion of the national debt, and a debt-to-Gross Domestic Product ratio that has fallen from 71 percent in 1995-1996 to 49 percent, the largest decline of any G-7 country. He also notes that Canada avoided recession during the global slowdown of 2001 and posted strong economic growth in 2002. Manley says Canada's economy grew at an annualized rate of more than 5 percent in the first half of 2002, from January to September the economy created 427,000 new jobs, and real personal disposable income per person rose 2.9 percent over the previous year. A survey of private sector forecasts shows that economic growth is expected to average 3.4 percent in 2002 and 3.5 percent in 2003, with Canada leading the G-7 in both years, Manley adds. The minister also notes that for 2001-2002, Canada recorded a budget surplus of \$8.9 billion, which went to reduce the national debt. The average private sector projections of Canada's fiscal-planning surplus, he says, are \$1.0 billion for 2002-2003, rising steadily to \$14.6 billion for 2007-2008. Manley warns, however, that Canada cannot be complacent, and says his government will remain prudent by continuing to balance its budget and pay down debt.
- 4 November 2002
Yukon Territory
- Yukon Party leader Dennis Fentie becomes premier of the Yukon Territory. The Yukon Party wins a 12-seat majority over the Liberals, who drop down to a single seat, and the New Democratic Party, who see their seats increase from four to five in the 18-member legislature. Fentie's inaugural promises include reviving the territory's struggling economy; working to formalize relationships with the Yukon's Aboriginal governments, especially those with settled land claims; and a more inclusive governing style that would see all 18 members of the legislature contribute to the policy-making process.

- 4-6 November 2002
Justice
- Federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for justice meet in Calgary, AB, to address a wide variety of items. Topics range from legal aid, to intoxicating inhalants, to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, to anti-terrorism, to streamlining the justice system. Agreements among the ministers include developing strategies and/or legal changes to allow for improved legal aid funding, improved protection of children from sexual exploitation, reforms to family law, secure ongoing and enhanced funding for family law services, sustained and enhanced funding for Aboriginal justice issues, the creation of new criminal offences of sexual voyeurism and distribution of voyeuristic materials, a sex offender registration system, more research into the nature and scope of organized crime activity, the adoption of the Canada Public Safety Information Network data standards as national standards, and greater efficiency within the justice system as a way to reduce costs and delays while simultaneously respecting victims and witnesses. The ministers also agree that spousal abuse should be made a regular part of the agenda for future meetings.
- 15 November 2002
Aboriginal Peoples
- Federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for Aboriginal affairs and the leaders of five national Aboriginal organizations meet in Iqaluit, NU, to discuss ways to strengthen Aboriginal participation in the economy, especially that of Aboriginal women and youth. The ministers and leaders commit to an ongoing focus on improving the entrepreneurship opportunities for Aboriginal women. Those gathered also approve the work done on two practical tools for facilitating Aboriginal women's participation in the economy: the Aboriginal Women's Business Planning Guide and a comprehensive federal-provincial-territorial-Aboriginal (FPTA) resource guide listing employment and entrepreneurship programs and services available to Aboriginal women. In connection with the National Aboriginal Youth Strategy, the leaders and ministers endorse the National Aboriginal Organizations Youth Committee, which will in turn advise and work through the FTPA Working Group on the development and implementation of Aboriginal youth programs and services.

- 18 November 2002
Aboriginal Peoples
- The Anglican Church of Canada agrees to pay \$25 million toward a special federal fund to compensate Aboriginal people who were abused as students in residential schools. In exchange for this payment, which is to be made over the next five years, the federal government agrees not to seek additional funds from the Church. The government's share of the compensation is estimated at more than \$1 billion. The new government-church agreement — resulting from more than two years of negotiations between church bishops and federal bureaucrats — awaits ratification by both parties.
- 19 November 2002
Environment
- Alberta introduces controversial legislation that will reinforce its constitutional claim over natural resources and expand the province's jurisdiction to include environmental management, an area typically shared between the provincial and federal governments. Claiming provincial ownership over carbon sinks (stands of forest and tracts of agricultural land that pull carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere), which are applied toward meeting greenhouse gas reduction targets, represents another area of federal-provincial dispute.
- 19 November 2002
Aboriginal Peoples
- Matthew Coon Come announces he will seek to be-elected as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations with the intention of continuing the battle with Ottawa over native rights. Coon Come's three-year term, perforated by conflict with Indian Affairs and other chiefs, ends in July.
- 22 November 2002
Social Services
- Federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for social services meet in Moncton, NB, to discuss the National Child Benefit, the Early Childhood Development initiative, and benefits and services (including labour market services) for persons with disabilities. The ministers also agree to work together to develop options to address the federal government's recent commitments made in its Speech from the Throne to increase access to early learning opportunities and quality childcare.
- 30 November 2002
Quebec
- Quebec Premier Bernard Landry introduces tax breaks on donations to a new sovereigntist organization, the Council for Sovereignty, in an effort to kick-start the independence movement. Contributions to this new group

will be treated as charitable donations, allowing the Quebec government to indirectly fund pro-sovereigntist ad campaigns and counter what Landry deems “federalist propaganda.” The Council for Sovereignty will immediately receive \$250,000 from Parti Québécois coffers, Landry says.

2 December 2002
Aboriginal Peoples

Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Robert Nault introduces the *First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act* in the House of Commons. This legislation will establish four national institutions to improve Aboriginal peoples’ capacity to improve the social and economic well-being of their communities. The First Nations Tax Commission is intended to provide more transparency, stability, and regulatory certainty to Aboriginal peoples and to Aboriginal governments that collect property tax on-reserve. The First Nations Finance Authority will allow Aboriginal peoples to issue their own debentures using property tax revenues as security, enabling them to build a competitive economic infrastructure. The First Nations Financial Management Board will certify community financial management practices and systems in an attempt to build the confidence of Aboriginal peoples, investors, and other governments. Finally, the First Nations Statistics Institute is set up to improve the quality and timeliness of Aboriginal statistics, with the purpose of enhancing community planning and reducing decision-making time.

2 December 2002
Fisheries

The Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers, which is made up of ministers from the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Nunavut, and the federal government, meets in Gatineau, QC, to discuss the Atlantic Fisheries Policy Review and cod stocks. The policy framework has been developing over the past three years and is nearing completion. It is intended to provide a foundation for the long-term sustainable management of the Atlantic fisheries. The second phase of the collaboration process will concentrate on developing and implementing plans and programs to put policies into action.

- 4 December 2002
Ontario
- Ontario Finance Minister Janet Ecker confirms that her government will sell off more than \$2 billion in public assets over the next four months to help balance this year's provincial budget. The asset sales include a small rural savings bank, the government's share in an electronic land registry company, publicly-owned real estate, and a 49 percent share in Hydro One.
- 7 December 2002
Tourism
- Federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for tourism meet in Victoria, BC. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ways to help ensure the tourism industry expands the economies of communities in all regions of Canada, while at the same time keeping in mind the need for strong border security measures. The ministers agree that quick action is crucial in increasing Canada's competitiveness in the global tourism industry and in resolving concerns related to air transportation policy, tourism funding, cross-border travel, and Northern and Aboriginal tourism.
- 9 December 2002
Health
- Roy Romanow unveils his landmark 356-page report, *Building on Values: The Future of Health Care in Canada*. The central message of the report is that Canada's health care system must remain publicly funded. The report's recommendations include a \$15-billion increase in federal health care funding by 2006. The report says that the funding increases — \$3.5 in 2003-2004, \$5.0 billion in 2004-2005, and \$6.5 billion in 2005-2006 — should come from future federal surpluses, not new taxes. Other recommendations include the creation of a national drug prescription plan to cover catastrophic costs, the creation of a national home care strategy, and the creation of a Health Council of Canada to act as a public watchdog on the health care system.
- 10 December 2002
Environment
- Parliament approves the Kyoto Accord to reduce greenhouse gases. The vote was a clear majority for ratification of the treaty, with 195 MPs in favour — the Liberal majority, backed by the Bloc Québécois and the New Democrats — and 77 against — the Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservatives. The government unveiled its revised plan for the ratification of the Kyoto

Accord in the House of Commons on 21 November. In addition to announcing that Canada could cut 240 megatonnes of emissions by 2012, the report stated that the effects on the economy would be negligible. While calling on individual Canadians to reduce personal emissions by 20 percent through energy savings and other means, the plan targets five areas for emissions savings: transportation, housing and commercial/institutional buildings, large industrial emitters, small- and medium-sized enterprises and fugitive emissions, and international emissions. Critics warn the effects on the economy will be substantial, and further charge that the government has no clear plan on this issue.

18 December 2002
Governor General

Former governor general Ramon John Hnatyshyn dies at the age of 68 following a lengthy battle with cancer. Hnatyshyn served as Canada's 24th governor general from 1990 to 1995. He was known for bringing warmth and openness to his post, which included reopening Rideau Hall to tours. He also created the Governor General's Awards for the Performing Arts. Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Hnatyshyn was first elected as a Conservative MP for Saskatoon West in 1974. In addition to his position as minister of energy in Joe Clark's 1979 government, he was also House leader and minister of justice under Brian Mulroney.

19 December 2002
Supreme Court of Canada

The Supreme Court of Canada rules 5-4 that Canadians do not have a constitutional right to guaranteed state welfare support. Countering activists' arguments that constitutional protection for "security of person" under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* should include a guaranteed standard of living, the ruling appears to confirm the federal government's right to control the public purse. The decision was handed down to Louise Gosselin of Montreal, who argued that Quebec's welfare rules in the 1980s violated her Charter of Rights guarantees to equality and life, liberty, and security of person. The governments of Ontario, New Brunswick, British Columbia, and Alberta argued that the provinces should design social policy, and that they should not be limited by the courts to simply handing out cash payments.

Chronology: Index

Aboriginal Peoples 7 February, 7 March, 13 March, 27 March, 9 April, 1 May,
15 June, 3 July, 16-18 July, 1 August, 15 November, 18 November, 19 November,
2 December

Agriculture 24 January, 20 June, 27-28 June

Alberta 22 January, 19 March

Atlantic Canada 16 January

Biodiversity 25 September

British Columbia 17 January, 19 February, 12 March

Climate Change 21 May, 28 October

Economic and Fiscal Update 30 October

Education 9-10 April, 8-9 October

Environment 5 March, 19 November, 10 December

Equalization 28 February

Federal Court of Canada 15 July

Finance 9 May, 30 October

Fisheries 27 August, 26 September, 27 September, 2 December

Forestry 24 September

Francophone Affairs 3-4 October

Geoscience 17 September

Governor General 18 December

Health 8 January, 25 January, 6 February, 24 April, 4-5 September, 8 October,
9 December

Housing 30 May, 24 June, 28 June

Immigration 16 October

Justice 13-14 February, 4-6 November

Municipalities 15 February, 7 June, 12-13 August, 19 August

National Parks 4 October

New Brunswick 21 January

Newfoundland and Labrador 19 March, 21 March

Northwest Territories 20 February, 28 October

Nova Scotia 4 April

Ontario 7 March, 9 March, 23 March, 15 April, 9 May, 29 May, 12 June, 17 June,
4 December

Parliament 13 March

Political Parties 9 April, 15 April, 17 June

Premiers' Meeting 24-25 January, 31 July-2 August

Prime Minister 21 August

Prince Edward Island 30 May

Quebec 30 January, 19 March, 7 May, 7 September, 30 November

Saskatchewan 26 September

Social Services 31 May, 22 November

Softwood Lumber 30 September

Supreme Court of Canada 1 July, 30 September, 19 December

Tourism 7 December

Trade 21 February, 21 March, 30 July

Western Canada 4-6 June

Women 23-24 September

Yukon Territory 4 November