

# *State of the Federation 2007: Chronology*

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## **Aboriginal People**

<p>10 January <i>Aboriginal Peoples, Town of Deseronto Blockade</i></p>	<p>Approximately 30 members of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte erect barricades outside a gravel quarry in the town of Deseronto, Ontario. The blockade comes as Aboriginal leaders protest the Town of Deseronto's development of land claimed by the Mohawk.</p>
<p>17 January <i>Aboriginal Peoples, Funding for Infrastructure</i></p>	<p>Rod Bruinooge, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announces an \$18.6 million investment to upgrade infrastructure for power generation for the northern Ontario First Nations.</p>
<p>20 January <i>Aboriginal Peoples, Ontario, Caledonia Affair</i></p>	<p>The stand-off between Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Aboriginal protestors of the Six Nations occupying a former housing development in Caledonia continues. Non-Aboriginal protestors threaten violence and turn the police line towards Six Nations residents for the first time.</p>

- 27 January  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Caledonia Affair*
- The federal government informs the Six Nations Confederacy that its claim to a former housing development in Caledonia will not be recognized in court. The government set out its position in a Department of Justice report presented to Confederacy officials negotiating with federal and provincial authorities to end the 11-month occupation.
- 6 February  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal government,  
AFN*
- Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice rejects accusations stemming from a human-rights complaint from the Assembly of First Nations over funding initiatives for Aboriginal children in foster care.
- 16 February  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal agreement with  
Anishinabek Nation*
- Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Jim Prentice signs a Governance Agreement in Principle with the Anishinabek Nation. The agreement establishes a framework to allow the Anishinabek Nation to assume greater control over its own institutions of government.
- 16 February  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Canada – Yukon  
Cooperation Agreement*
- Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jim Prentice meets with the Premier of the Yukon Territory, Dennis Fentie, to announce the signing of the 2007-2008 Canada-Yukon Cooperation Agreement for Aboriginal Languages. The agreement includes \$1.1 million in federal funding for the administration of the Territorial Accord, the management of the Aboriginal Languages Community Initiative Program, and the distribution of community-based funding for Aboriginal languages.
- 12 March  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Highway blockade,  
Quebec*
- A group of 50 armed Aboriginal protestors blockade a highway near Grand-Remous Quebec to draw attention to forest mismanagement by the provincial government.
- 25 March  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Residential Schools*
- The Atlantic First Nations Chiefs demand an apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper for the abuse suffered by native children sent to Indian Residential Schools.
- 27 March  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Canada, Saskatchewan,  
Election for Métis Nation*
- The federal government and the Government of Saskatchewan announce that they will renew their support for the Independent Oversight Committee's proposal to hold a fair and democratic election for the Métis Nation after it was determined that there were serious irregularities in the 2004 election.
- 9 April  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal funding*
- An impoverished Aboriginal reserve in northern Ontario will get \$40 million from the federal government to help connect houses to the regional electricity grid, improve water and sewage services, and to build local schools.

- 12 April  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Funding and Employment  
For Aboriginal post  
Secondary students*
- The Government of Manitoba, the federal government, and the Business Council of Manitoba announce that they will provide \$1.35 million in financial assistance as well as summer and interim employment to Aboriginal students pursuing post-secondary education.
- 19 April  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Deseronto blockade*
- Train service on one of the country's busiest corridors is halted by aboriginal protestors near Deseronto, Ontario. The protests come amidst long-simmering tensions over land disputes in the region and are peacefully dispersed the next day with Aboriginal leaders threatening more blockades throughout the month.
- 19 April  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
First Nations Market  
Housing Fund*
- Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jim Prentice and Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg, announce a \$300 million investment in the First Nations Market Housing Fund to provide opportunities for home ownership to people living on First Nations reserves.
- 22 April  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Ontario, Protests*
- The Aboriginal protestors responsible for railway blockades earlier in the month rally on the front steps of the Ontario Legislature in an attempt to obtain backing for their ongoing land claim dispute.
- 27 April  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Canada –Alberta-  
First Nations Agreement*
- The federal government unveils a partnership with the province of Alberta and Alberta's First Nations that will see significant improvements to child and family services for First Nations in the province.
- 10 May  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
B.C., Crown land  
Signed over to aboriginal  
Bands*
- The government of B.C. agrees to sign over 122 hectares of Crown land in and around Whistler to the Squamish and Lil'wat Aboriginal bands. The deal makes the bands the largest potential land developers in the lucrative resort area.
- June 11  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Canada, B.C.,  
Tripartite First Nations'  
Health Plan*
- Minister of Health Tony Clement and B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell meet with the B.C. First Nations Leadership Council to sign Canada's first ever Tripartite First Nations Health Plan, with the goal of improving the health and well-being of First Nations in the province.
- June 12  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Nunavut devolution*
- Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jim Prentice releases 'The Mayer Report on Nunavut Devolution'. The report outlines the challenges and opportunities faced by the territory today, as well as a review of current devolution negotiations.

- June 12  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal plan,  
Aboriginal land claims*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces a new plan to deal with the growing backlog of unresolved Aboriginal land claims. The new Specific Claims Action Plan will establish an independent tribunal to expedite land claims.
- June 15  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal plan  
Safety*
- Conservative MP Rahim Jaffer announces a \$3.6 million deal with the Enoch Cree Nation under the Community Tripartite Agreement to improve police capacity and improve the safety of First Nations communities.
- June 18  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
B.C., SCC ruling,  
Indian Act*
- The B.C. Supreme Court strikes down a contentious aspect of the federal Indian Act ruling that Ottawa's definition of a status Indian is discriminatory. The move opens the door to thousands of new applications for native services.
- June 22  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal funding*
- Minister of Canadian Heritage and the Status of Women Bev Oda announces that the federal government will make a five-year investment of \$56 million to address the need for family violence prevention programs in First Nations communities.
- June 25  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
B.C., treaty process*
- Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jim Prentice meets with Aboriginal leaders in B.C. to discuss improvements to the province's stagnant treaty process, which has yet to produce a ratified treaty in 15 years.
- June 29  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
National Day of Action*
- Aboriginal blockades shut down the CN Rail mainline between Toronto and Montreal, as well as Highway 401, as part of a National Day of Action called by the Assembly of First Nations.
- 13 July  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Kingston,  
Protests*
- The Algonquin First Nation holds several large rallies to in and around the Kingston-area to protest a prospective multi-million dollar uranium mine north of the city. Prosters deny prospectors access to the site instigating a standoff with the O.P.P.
- 13 July  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal funding,  
Skills and employment  
Opportunities*
- Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg announces an investment of \$105 million over five years for new partnership projects across Canada. The projects will help Aboriginal people gain new skills and employment opportunities, as well as helping industry meet its demand for skilled workers.

- 16 July**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Cree Nation of Quebec  
Settlement*
- In an historic step for federal-native relations, the Government of Canada reaches a \$1.4 billion settlement with the Cree Nation of Quebec, ending three decades of complaints over the government not living up to treaty obligations. The deal also suspends three Cree lawsuits accusing the federal government of failing to deliver all benefits promised in the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.
- 23 July**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal court dispute,  
Settlement*
- The federal government announces that it will pay \$25 million to help settle a court dispute over its failure to consult with Aboriginal groups over the proposed Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline, which would carry gas south from the Arctic and terminate on traditional Aboriginal lands in northern Alberta.
- 25 July**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
B.C., Tsawwassen  
First Nations, new treaty*
- The Province of B.C. and the Tsawwassen First Nation successfully negotiate and ratify a new treaty that will give the group more than 400 hectares of Crown land north of Vancouver. The deal ends B.C.'s dismal record of not having a treaty successfully ratified in over 15 years.
- 26 July**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
B.C., Squamish Nation,  
Protected area*
- The Squamish Nation and the Government of B.C. agree to set aside 11,000 hectares in the province's southwest as a protected area. The deal is touted as another sign of a new relationship between the province and its native bands.
- 30 July**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Canada, Kashechewan  
First Nation agreement*
- Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jim Prentice signs an agreement with the Kashechewan First Nation to redevelop a healthy and sustainable community in its present location.
- 13 August**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Canada, Quebec,  
Inuit Community,  
Agreement*
- Negotiators for the federal government, the Government of Quebec, and Inuit communities in Quebec produce an agreement-in-principle for a self-governance pact, which would devolve several legislative and administrative duties to the province's 10,000 Inuit.
- 23 August**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal transfer,  
Nunavut*
- The federal government announces that it will transfer an additional \$3 million to the Government of Nunavut in order to complete infrastructure upgrades under the Canada-Nunavut Agreement on the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues.
- 24 August**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Quebec funding, Inuit*
- The Government of Quebec announces that it will invest \$170 million to provide infrastructure, healthcare, and education upgrades for the province's 10,000 Inuit.

- 28 August**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal funding,  
Aboriginal Health  
Human Resource*
- Conservative MP Rick Casson announces that the federal government will spend \$1 million over three years under the Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative to help increase the number of Aboriginal nurses working in Canada's health care system, particularly in First Nations communities.
- 30 August**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Weeneebayko Health  
Integration Framework*
- Minister of Health Tony Clement unveils a new plan, the Weeneebayko Area Health Integration Framework Agreement, to resolve the duplication of health care services and health care gaps for First Nations in the Northern Ontario Weeneebayko region.
- September 18**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Caledonia Affair*
- In response to the beating of a builder last week, the Ontario government announces that it has pulled out of land-claims negotiations with the Six Nations in Caledonia. Negotiations, however, are expected to resume soon. The Confederacy Council indicates that the Ontario government's move may worsen the situation.
- September 19**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Caledonia Affair*
- Nine aboriginal protestors are arrested in Caledonia by the O.P.P. The protestors continued to demonstrate despite the agreement reached between the developer and the Six Nations Chiefs allowing development to proceed. Police action received tacit acceptance by the Six Nations Confederacy.
- September 20**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
UN declaration  
Federal government*
- Canada votes against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl says that the Declaration lacks clear guidance for implementation and goes against Canada's constitution. He also says that the non-binding Declaration fails to recognize Canada's need to balance indigenous rights with those of others.
- October 22**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Treaty settlement,  
Vancouver Island*
- Five Vancouver Island First Nations approve a treaty settlement with the provincial and federal governments. The Maa-nulth Treaty will give the five nations a capital transfer of \$73.1 million, annual resource royalty payments averaging \$1.2 million for 25 years and a land transfer totalling 245 square kilometres.
- November 26**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Inuit Accord*
- Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg signs the Inuit Accord on human resources development. It will provide extensive skills development and training to northern Aboriginal people.
- December 5**  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Nunavik Regional  
Government*
- The governments of Quebec and Canada along with the Malvik Corporation sign an agreement-in-principle on the creation of the Nunavik Regional Government. This agreement-in-principle builds on the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and moves the region closer to establishing public regional government.

December 20  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Ipperwash Project*

The Ontario government announces that Ipperwash Provincial Park is to be handed over to the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. The 44 hectare piece of land gained notoriety in 1995 when a Native protester, Dudley George, was shot and killed by the OPP.

## **Agriculture**

1 January  
*Agriculture,  
Canadian Wheat  
Board*

The ongoing dispute between Western Canadian farmers and the federal government over the future of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) is expected to stretch into the spring. Both sides prepare for a plebiscite to decide whether or not to end the Board's monopoly on wheat and barley exports.

16 January  
*Agriculture,  
Canadian Wheat  
Board*

Farmers in Manitoba vote overwhelmingly in favour of keeping the Canadian Wheat Board's monopoly on grain sales. Though the vote, conducted via mail-in ballots, is non-binding, it indicates growing opposition to the federal government's plans to deregulate the market for wheat and barley. A prairie-wide plebiscite on the issue is expected

31 January  
*Agriculture,  
Canadian Wheat  
Board*

Federal Minister of Agriculture Chuck Strahl officially launches a prairie-wide plebiscite on the future of the Canadian Wheat Board. The non-binding plebiscite will allow grain farmers to decide whether or not Canada's wheat and barley exports should be deregulated.

1 February  
*Agriculture,  
Federal government,  
Tax deferrals*

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture, announces that the federal government will extend tax deferrals for additional livestock. The extension affects north-western Ontario, northern B.C., and southern Saskatchewan. It allows eligible producers to defer income tax on the sale of breeding livestock for one year to help replenish breeding stock in the following year.

12 February  
*Agriculture,  
Federal funding,  
Saskatchewan*

The federal government announces an increase of \$41.5 million to the federal Agricultural Policy Framework to support agricultural research and development in Saskatchewan.

13 March  
*Agriculture,  
Canadian Wheat  
Board  
Barley plebiscite*

Faced with three choices in the barley plebiscite: one retain single desk (CWB); two, prefer option to market to CWB or other buyer of choice; and three, CWB should have no role in marketing barley, western farmers vote for the second option indicating their desire to have a voice in the marketing of barley.

28 March  
*Agriculture,  
Canadian Wheat Board  
Barley marketing*

Minister of Agriculture Chuck Strahl announces that the government will move ahead with its plans to give western farmers a voice in the marketing of barley. This announcement comes two weeks after farmers voted to end the CWB monopoly.

- 10 April  
*Agriculture,  
Ministers of Agriculture  
Meeting*
- The federal government and the Government of New Brunswick announce changes to the Canada-New Brunswick program for the implementation of Beneficial Management Practices. The changes will increase the maximum amount of funding available to agricultural producers for the implementation of environmentally sustainable practices.
- 12 April  
*Agriculture,  
Ministers of  
Agriculture meeting*
- Federal and provincial Ministers of Agriculture meet in Manitoba to discuss how to ensure that the agri-food sector will remain strong. Ministers commit to an ongoing collaboration among governments and industry, a new business risk management program, the development of the next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy, new strategies for WTO negotiations, and enhanced feed ban regulations.
- 1 May  
*Agriculture,  
Federal pay out*
- Minister of Agriculture Chuck Strahl announces that the federal government will pay out \$400 million to cover the cost of production payments to be dispersed to farmers by June 2007.
- 2 May  
*Agriculture,  
Agriculture Income  
Stability program  
Criticized*
- Auditor-General Sheila Fraser delivers a welcome indictment of the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program, a billion dollar farm-income program heavily attacked by the federal Conservatives. Fraser's report criticizes the program for being overly complex, lacking in transparency, and containing clear conflicts of interest among some employees.
- 11 May  
*Agriculture,  
Funding for ranches*
- The federal government and the government of B.C. announce \$7.5 million in assistance for ranchers affected by severe drought in 2006.
- June 11  
*Agriculture,  
CWB, amendments*
- Minister of Agriculture Chuck Strahl announces that the Canadian Wheat Board Regulations have been amended to remove the Board's monopoly on barley beginning on August 1, 2007 following a plebiscite held earlier in the year.
- June 29  
*Agriculture,  
Canada ,PEI  
BSE*
- The Government of PEI and the federal government announce that they will jointly invest \$3.8 million in the province's beef and dairy industries to help accelerate the elimination of BSE from Canada's cattle herds.
- June 29  
*Agriculture,  
Agriculture Ministers'  
Meeting*
- Minister of Agriculture Chuck Strahl joins his provincial and territorial counterparts in the annual conference of Ministers of Agriculture in Whistler. The Ministers will discuss new policy and programming directions for Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector.
- 12 July  
*Agriculture,  
BSE*
- Minister of Agriculture Chuck Strahl announces that, with immediate effect, certain cattle tissues capable of transmitting BSE will be banned from all animal feed, pet food, and fertilizer.



- 13 July  
*Agriculture,  
Canada, B.C., funding  
For fruit growers*
- The federal government and the Province of B.C. announce that they have reached a joint-agreement to provide \$8 million to B.C. fruit growers to help them develop new products and find new markets.
- 13 July  
*Agriculture,  
Cover Crop Protection  
Program*
- The federal government announces that it will commit \$52 million over the next four years through the Cover Crop Protection Program to assist agricultural producers who are unable to seed commercial crops due to spring flooding or excessive field moisture.
- 22 July  
*Agriculture,  
Canadian Wheat Board*
- The Canadian Wheat Board takes the federal government to court in a last-ditch attempt to preserve its monopoly on barley sales. The Board argues that the government ignored several sections of the Wheat Board Act that require the passage of legislation before changes can be made to the monopoly.
- 01 August  
*Agriculture,  
Canadian Wheat Board,  
Court ruling*
- Federal Court Judge Dolores Hansen rules on the future of the Canadian Wheat Board's monopoly on barley sales. Judge Hansen concludes that Agricultural Minister Chuck Strahl was wrong to introduce a regulation that would allow Western Canadian farmers to market barley independently, ruling that amendments to the 1998 Canadian Wheat Board Act which governs the Board requires a vote in Parliament.
- November 19  
*Agriculture,  
U.S. border opening*
- After more than four years of restricted trade due to the mad-cow disease scare, the U.S. border opens to older live cattle and their meat products.
- December 18  
*Agriculture,  
Alberta,  
BSE*
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has confirmed the diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a 13-year-old beef cow in Alberta. No part of the animal's carcass entered human food or animal feed systems due to enhanced feed ban laws which came into effect on July 12, 2007.

## **Budget**

- 20 February  
*Budget,  
B.C.*
- The Liberal government of B.C. introduces its 2007 budget and will use a hefty surplus to improve housing conditions, cut taxes, and target environmental issues. Full details of the budget can be found at online at: <http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2007/highlights/>

- 7 March  
*Budget,*  
*Nunavut*
- Nunavut Finance Minister David Simailak tables the northern territory's 2007-2008 budget. Full details of the budget can be found online at:  
<http://www.gov.nu.ca/finance/mainbudgets/2007.shtml>
- 13 March  
*Budget,*  
*New Brunswick*
- New Brunswick Finance Minister Victor Boudreau tables the provinces 2007-2008 budget with further investments to health care, senior care, and energy conservation. Further details about the budget can be found online at:  
<http://www.gnb.ca/0160/budget/buddoc2007/index-e.asp>
- 19 March  
*Budget,*  
*Federal government*
- Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, tables the 2007-2008 Federal Budget in the House of Commons. The budget includes \$14 billion in new government spending and \$5.7 billion in corporate, sales, and income tax cuts. Shortly after the budget is tabled the opposition Liberal and New Democratic Party's announce that they will not support the budget's passage. The new budget, specifically the government's decision to include oil revenues in the calculation of equalization payments, causes concern for the Atlantic provinces. The Premiers criticize Harper's plans for not honouring the Atlantic Accord. Details on the federal budget can be found online at:  
[http://www.budget.gc.ca/2007/index\\_e.html](http://www.budget.gc.ca/2007/index_e.html)
- 22 March  
*Budget,*  
*Saskatchewan*
- Saskatchewan Finance Minister Andrew Thomson delivers the province's 2007- 2008 budget. It is the fourteenth consecutive balanced budget for the province. Full details of the budget can be found online at: <http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget/2007-08/>
- 22 March  
*Budget,*  
*Ontario*
- Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan tables the province's 2007-2008 budget. The budget contains a number of initiatives for children and families, including the Ontario Child Benefit, which will provide an addition \$2.1 billion over 5 years to assist the province's estimated 1.3 million children. Full details of the budget can be found online at: <http://www.ontariobudget.ca/>
- 23 March  
*Budget,*  
*Nova Scotia*
- The Government of Nova Scotia tables its 2007-2008 provincial budget, announcing that it will receive an additional \$95 million from the federal government for opting out of the current Equalization system and the Offshore Accords. The full details of the budget can be found online at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/finance/budget07/default.asp>

- 26 March  
*Budget,  
Federal government,  
Confidence vote*
- Despite the efforts of Atlantic Premiers to convince MPs to vote against the federal budget, Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government survives a crucial confidence vote on the federal budget, easing fears of a snap spring election. The Bloc Quebecois supported the budget despite Liberal abstention and NDP opposition in the House.
- 4 April  
*Budget,  
Manitoba*
- Manitoba Finance Minister Greg Selinger introduces the province's 2007-2008 budget. The pre-election budget includes a surplus of \$175 million much of which will go to paying down the provincial debt. Full details of the budget can be found online at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/budget07/index.html>
- 19 April  
*Budget,  
Yukon Territory*
- Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie tables the territory's 2007-2008 budget. Full details of the budget can be found online at: <http://www.finance.gov.yk.ca/general/publications.html>
- 22 April  
*Budget,  
Alberta*
- Alberta Finance Minister Lyle Oberg unveils the province's 2007-2008 budget amidst surging energy revenues. The budget includes a \$2.2 billion surplus and nearly \$200 million in personal and corporate tax cuts. Full details of the budget can be found online at: <http://www.gov.ab.ca/budget2007>
- 26 April  
*Budget,  
Newfoundland  
And Labrador*
- Newfoundland and Labrador Finance Minister Tom Marshall tables the province's 2007-2008 budget. The budget includes the largest income tax reduction in the province's history, totaling approximately \$155 million. Full details of the budget can be found online at: <http://www.budget.gov.nl.ca/budget2007/>
- 24 May  
*Budget,  
Quebec*
- Quebec Finance Minister Monique Jérôme-Forget tables the province's 2007-2008 budget. The highly controversial budget, which includes a \$950 million tax cut, is heavily opposed by Quebec's opposition parties sparking fears that the month-old minority government could be defeated. Full details of the budget can be found online at: [http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/budget/2007-2008a/index\\_en.asp](http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/budget/2007-2008a/index_en.asp)
- June 1  
*Budget,  
Quebec*
- The Quebec budget passes in the National Assembly by one of the narrowest margins in history, saving Quebecers from returning to the polls one month after electing the province's first minority government.
- June 21  
*Budget,  
Federal government,  
Senate pass*
- The Senate passes the Conservative governments controversial 2007-2008 federal budget, having previously refused to endorse the bill amidst growing tensions between the government and members of the Liberal dominated upper-house.

- October 16  
*Budget,  
PEI* The government of Prince Edward Island releases its budget for 2007. Full text of the document can be read at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/budget/2007-2/index.php>
- October 30  
*Budget,  
Federal government* The federal government of Canada presents its budget for 2007. In it is \$60 billion in income, corporate and sales tax cuts. It also allows for the GST to be reduced to 5%. Full text of the document can be read at [http://www.budget.gc.ca/2007/index\\_e.html](http://www.budget.gc.ca/2007/index_e.html)
- November 21  
*Budget,  
Federal government* Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty tables in the House of Commons the Budget and Economic Statement Implementation Act to put into effect the \$60 billion of tax cuts proposed in the budget of June 22, 2007. This will be the most expansive decrease in taxes in Canada since the early 1960s.
- December 14  
*Budget,  
Federal government* Bill C-28 the final 2007 budget implementation bill received Royal Assent. Most notably, the new budget provisions will see the Good and Services Tax fall to 5% as of January 1, 2008.

## **Economy**

- June 19  
*Economy,  
Finance Ministers' Conference* Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty meets with his provincial and territorial counterparts at a two day conference to discuss how to manage Canada's surging economic growth.
- September 21  
*Economy,  
Canadian dollar* The Canadian dollar reaches parity with the U.S. dollar for the first time in 30 years. The strong dollar is expected to have a negative effect on Canada's exports particularly in the manufacturing industry. The rising dollar is also raising concern amongst provincial premiers leading Quebec and Ontario to urge the Prime Minister to hold a summit on the Canadian economy.
- September 12  
*Economy,  
China displaces Canada* China replaces Canada as the number one seller of goods to the U.S.; the first time China's shipment to the U.S. surpassed Canada's in a 12-month period. This signals that Canada's special trading relationship with the U.S. may be diminishing. Canada and the U.S., however, remain each other's biggest trading partners because of U.S. imports to Canada outnumber U.S. imports to China. Canadian exports in the service sector, however, continues to grow.

## **Environment**

- 1 January  
*Environment,* At least seven provincial governments join their U.S. counterparts in announcing new agreements to reduce the effects of climate

<i>Provincial-U.S. State Agreements</i>	change. Quebec, following the four Maritime Provinces, joins a grouping of seven northeast U.S. states called the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Meanwhile, Manitoba joins the voluntary Chicago carbon market and British Columbia signs a \$30 million deal with California to study ways of injecting carbon dioxide back into the earth.
17 January <i>Environment, Clean-Energy Technology</i>	The federal government announces a \$230 million investment to research clean-energy technologies. Environment Minister John Baird and Minister of National Resources Gary Lunn say the money will be spent on cleaning up conventional sources of energy including coal and oil.
19 January <i>Environment, Federal government Alternative Energy Funding</i>	Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that the federal government will put more than \$1.5 billion into funding alternative energy technologies.
22 January <i>Environment, British Columbia Great Bear Rainforest</i>	Federal Environment Minister John Baird unveils plans to contribute \$30 million towards a fund to help protect B.C.'s Great Bear Rainforest.
1 February <i>Environment, NAFTA Report</i>	The NAFTA pollution watchdog releases two reports which find the Canadian federal government guilty of widespread failures to enforce laws requiring forest companies to protect migratory birds and ensure that their effluent does not kill fish.
12 February <i>Environment, Projected funding</i>	Finance Minister Jim Flaherty reveals significant funds will be earmarked in the upcoming federal budget for provinces to fund environmental efforts aimed at curbing greenhouse-gas emissions.
27 February <i>Environment, Alberta, Kearl Oil Sands Project</i>	The Joint Review Panel, established by the Federal Minister of the Environment and the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, releases a decision that grants approval for Imperial Oil to construct and operate the controversial Kearl Oil Sands Project in northern Alberta.
7 March <i>Environment, New Brunswick Musquash Estuary</i>	The Federal Government and the Government of New Brunswick jointly announce that the Musquash Estuary will become Canada's newest Marine Protected Area under the Oceans Act. The Estuary becomes the first protected area designated in New Brunswick.

- 12 March  
*Environment,  
PEI, Wind Power project* The government of Prince Edward Island raises \$5 million for a wind-power project to be built on the island's eastern tip by issuing a series of 'energy savings bonds' to the public.
- 14 March  
*Environment,  
Federal campaign* Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Environment Minister John Baird announce a new national campaign to acquire and preserve ecologically sensitive land in partnership with the private sector. The federal government will pledge \$225 million to fund the initiative.
- 18 March  
*Environment,  
Ontario,  
Great Lakes clean-up* The government of Ontario, supported by the federal government, announces that it will clean up four of the fifteen most polluted sites on the Canadian side of the Great Lakes by 2010. The sites – including Jackfish Bay and Nipigon Bay in Lake Superior, along with Wheatly Harbour on Lack Erie and the St. Lawrence River near Cornwall – have been heavily polluted by industrial waste, municipal sewage, and agricultural runoff.
- 21 April  
*Environment,  
Ontario plan* The Government of Ontario unveils a plan to ban incandescent light bulbs in favour of more energy-efficient compact fluorescents by 2012.
- 21 April  
*Environment,  
Montreal protests  
Earth day* Massive rallies are held in Montreal demanding the Canadian Government honour its obligations under the Kyoto Accord. The protestors join millions around the world celebrating Earth Day.
- 24 April  
*Environment,  
Federal funding for  
PEI* Minister of the Environment John Baird announces \$15 million in federal funding for Prince Edward Island as part of a trust fund set up to support provincial and territorial projects to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants.
- 25 April  
*Environment,  
Lighting efficiency plan* Minister of Natural Resources Gary Lunn and Minister of the Environment John Baird jointly announce that the federal government will introduce new standards for lighting efficiency to come into force by 2012.
- 26 April  
*Environment,  
Federal regulation  
On industry* Minister of the Environment John Baird unveils new regulations to force industry to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The plan, entitled 'Turning the Corner: An Action Plan to Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Air Pollution', marks the first-time ever the government has forced industries to reduce emissions by setting a target of cutting air pollution from industry in half by 2015.
- 3 May  
*Environment,  
Federal funding for  
Bio-fuels* The federal government announces that it will invest over \$718,000 in six Eastern and Central Ontario organizations to help them compete in the emerging bio-fuel industry.

- 14 May  
*Environment,  
Federal funding for  
Nova Scotia clean air  
And climate change*
- Minister of the Environment John Baird and Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter MacKay announce \$42.5 million in funding for Nova Scotia's part of Canada's \$1.5 billion trust for clean air and climate change. The trust was set up to support provincial and territorial projects to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 15 May  
*Environment,  
Enviro-friendly trains*
- Canada's major rail companies reach a voluntary agreement with the federal government to introduce more environmentally friendly trains.
- 24 May  
*Environment,  
UN Report on Canada's  
Greenhouse gas  
Emissions*
- According to data obtained by Environment Canada from the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change, Canada's greenhouse gas emissions have stabilized in recent years. However, the latest numbers are still 32 percent above Kyoto Protocol targets. The report heaps further pressure on the Conservative government's current environmental policies.
- 25 May  
*Environment,  
Federal funding for  
Bio fuels*
- The federal government announces that it will invest over \$1 million in five southern Alberta projects to help the emerging bio-fuels industry.
- 25 May  
*Environment,  
Ontario-California  
Agreement on climate  
Change*
- The Government of Ontario signs a sweeping agreement with California to fight climate change, but stops short of adopting the state's aggressive rules requiring car makers to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.
- 28 May  
*Environment,  
Canadian Council of  
Ministers on the  
Environment*
- Minister of the Environment John Baird meets with his provincial and territorial counterparts to discuss plans to tackle climate change and air pollution at the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment in Toronto.
- June 8  
*Environment,  
Restructuring of  
Federal buildings*
- Minister of Public Works and Government Service Michael Fortier announces that the Canadian government will launch a three year action plan to renovate federal office buildings in order to make them more environmentally friendly.
- June 8  
*Environment,  
Federal funding,  
Manitoba, bio-fuels*
- President of the Treasury Board Vic Toews announces that the federal government will invest \$209,000 in three projects in Manitoba to help develop the emerging biofuels industry. Under the Bio-fuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative, the funding will assist in the development of an ethanol plant and biodiesel facilities in the province.

- June 13  
*Environment,  
Nuclear waste*
- Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn revives a long-stalled plan to bury Canada's nuclear waste in underground storage facilities, a move seen as crucial for the industry's expansion as an alternative energy source.
- June 15  
*Environment,  
Nova Scotia, fishing*
- Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter MacKay announces that the government will invest \$8.2 million to improve several fishing harbours in Nova Scotia.
- June 21  
*Environment,  
Constitutionality of  
The Kyoto Accord*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper states that it is constitutionally impossible for the government to comply with a newly passed law requiring Canada to respect its emissions-cutting commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.
- June 24  
*Environment,  
Eastern Canadian  
Provinces and New  
England*
- Eastern Canadian premiers and New England governors gather in PEI to discuss energy and climate issues in a two day conference. They agree to move towards a common energy market.
- June 25  
*Environment,  
Federal funding,  
Alberta, biofuels*
- Conservative MP Rick Casson announces that the federal government will invest \$416 thousand in three southern Alberta projects to help the emerging biofuel industry.
- June 25  
*Environment,  
Oil companies, tax*
- The government of Quebec announces that it will seek to tax oil companies to fund environmental programs in the province. Under the plan, a one-cent per litre tax on refiners and distributors of petroleum products will come into effect beginning October 1, 2007.
- 01 July  
*Environment,  
Canada, B.C.  
Plant and tree  
Nursery fund*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper unveils a \$24 million compensation package to aid plant and tree nurseries in B.C. The announcement comes after wholesale and retail nurseries suffer heavy losses due to an invasive species of fungus called "sudden oak death".
- 05 July  
*Environment,  
Federal funding  
Renewable energy*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that his government will direct \$1.5 billion over nine years toward incentives to produce renewable energy.
- 05 July  
*Environment,  
Federal funding  
ecoENERGY for  
Renewable Power*
- Minister of Natural Resources Gary Lunn announces that the federal government will award \$16.5 million to Kettles Hill Wind Energy Inc., under its ecoENERGY for Renewable Power initiative. The company will use the money to construct a massive wind-power station in southern Alberta.



- 06 July  
*Environment,  
Aboriginal Peoples,  
B.C., protected land*
- The government of B.C. and the In-shuck-ch Nation sign an agreement outlining how 250,000 square hectares of environmentally and culturally sensitive wilderness located 150 kilometres northeast of Vancouver will be protected.
- 09 July  
*Environment,  
Federal funding,  
NFLD and Labrador  
fisheries*
- Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Loyola Hearn announces \$5.1 million in federal funding to start repair projects at nine key harbours along Newfoundland and Labrador's central and northeast coasts.
- 18 July  
*Environment,  
Ontario, online map*
- The Government of Ontario launches an online climate change map, the first of its kind in Canada. The map graphically illustrates regional temperature and moisture changes due to global warming.
- 08 August  
*Environment,  
Nahanni Ecosystem*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces an expansion to the Nahanni provincial park in the Northwest Territories. The announcement allows for the protection of an additional 5,400 square kilometres of land within the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem.
- September 8  
*Environment,  
APEC Summit in  
Australia,  
Draft resolution to  
Replace Kyoto*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper signs a draft resolution with the other leaders of the APEC nations that replaces the Kyoto Protocol. The agreement was reached during an APEC summit in Australia, no details have been specified but Prime Minister Harper does say that the agreement will not bind signatories to meet firm goals, instead it will provide a blueprint for countries to follow to slow, stop, and reverse climate change.
- September 19  
*Environment,  
Kyoto Accord*
- An environmental group takes legal action against the federal government regarding greenhouse gas emissions. They filed application to force the federal government to meet its obligations under Kyoto, arguing that the federal government's plan released last month falls short of the targets set in the Kyoto Accord.
- September 24  
*Environment,  
Kyoto Accord,  
Asia – Pacific  
Partnership*
- At an U.N. conference on the Kyoto Accord, Prime Minister Harper announces that Canada will join a rival climate change pact – the Asia-Pacific Partnership (nicknamed as the anti-Kyoto by some environmentalists). Harper announces that he joined the Partnership in hopes of bridging the differences between the two groups and to coax the members to sign a new deal when the Kyoto Accord expires in 2012.
- September 25  
*Environment,  
Kyoto Accord  
Intensity targets*
- At a dinner attended by world leaders, Prime Minister Harper continued to campaign for the replacement of capping greenhouse emissions at specific levels with a system that measures success for reducing emissions (“intensity targets”). The day before however, Harper indicated that world leaders are far from striking a deal.

- October 20  
*Environment,  
Kyoto Accord*
- Environment Minister John Baird announces that Canada will not formally withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol despite the government's throne speech that declared the objectives of the global climate treaty to be unattainable.
- October 29  
*Environment,  
B.C., International  
Carbon Action  
Partnership*
- British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell signs a deal at the Lisbon Summit that will allow it to enter into the International Carbon Action Partnership. British Columbia will be the only Canadian province to sign the carbon emissions trade agreement with a number of European Union members.
- November 7  
*Environment,  
Motor Vehicle Fuel  
Consumption Standards*
- The Motor Vehicle Fuel Consumption Standards Act is proclaimed law. This act sets mandatory fuel consumption standards for all new vehicles in Canada. The automobile industry will cut greenhouse gas emissions in all light-duty vehicles by 5.3 mega tonnes by 2010.
- November 21  
*Environment,  
New park in NWT*
- The federal government announces the creation of a new National Park in the Northwest Territories. The East Arm of Great Slave Lake has been given park status, protecting it from nearby diamond and uranium mining operations. The park is expected to be named the Thaydene Nene National Park.

## **Federal Politics**

- 4 January  
*Federal Politics,  
Cabinet Shuffle*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper begins his second year in office by announcing a major cabinet reshuffle. The changes come in response to mounting criticism of the government's stance on environmental issues. John Baird, former President of the Treasury Board, takes over from Rona Ambrose as Minister Environment. Ambrose is appointed Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification.
- 5 January  
*Federal Politics*
- Wajid Khan, Member of Parliament for Mississauga-Streetsville, officially joins the federal caucus of the Conservative Party of Canada. Khan was first elected to his seat as a Liberal but joins the Conservatives after accepting a new role as special consultant to the Prime Minister on the Middle East and Afghanistan.
- 10 January  
*Federal Politics,  
Public Forums*
- Peter Van Loan, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Minister for Democratic Reform, announces that the Government is planning to organize public consultations on Canada's democratic institutions and practices. The consultations will be comprised of 12 citizens' forums, one held in each province, to take place later in the year.

- 12 January  
*Federal politics,  
Border security*
- Minister of Public Safety, Stockwell Day, announces that the federal government will invest \$430 million over the next five years to fund new border security measures. The funding allows three key government initiatives – the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, eManifest, and Business Resumption and Partners in Protection – to move forward.
- 22 January  
*Federal Politics,  
Housing and small  
Business support*
- Federal Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn announces plans to invest \$300 million over the next four years in order to offer homeowners and small businesses information and support to retrofit homes, buildings, and industrial processes.
- 24 January  
*Federal Politics,  
Federal Surplus*
- The federal government reveals that it ran a budget surplus of \$300 million in November, increasing its surplus since the start of the fiscal year in April to \$6.1 billion.
- 26 January  
*Federal politics,  
Arar settlement*
- Mahar Arar, infamously deported by U.S. authorities on faulty information provided by the Canadian government, wins the largest legal settlement of its kind in Canadian history. Arar will receive an official apology from the Prime Minister and an \$11.5 million compensation package from the federal government.
- 7 February  
*Federal politics,  
Citizen input*
- Minster of Finance Jim Flaherty launches an online consultation initiative to allow Canadians to participate in the development of the 2007 Federal Budget.
- 7 February  
*Federal politics,  
Accountability Act*
- President of the Treasury Board Vic Toews outlines new measures to toughen penalties for fraud offences involving tax-money as part of the federal government’s plans to implement the Federal Accountability Act.
- 19 February  
*Federal politics,  
Funding for Canadians  
With disabilities*
- Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg announces an investment of \$223 million to help Canadians with disabilities develop skills and secure long-term employment.
- 22 February  
*Federal politics,  
Accountability and  
Lobbying Act*
- President of the Treasury Board Vic Toews announces another step to the implementation of the Federal Accountability Act by initiating a consultation process on the regulations necessary to implement the new Lobbying Act. The Lobbying Act would significantly increase government oversight of all lobbying activities.
- 18 March  
*Federal politics,  
Child benefit  
Program fraud*
- The federal government will step up efforts to find ‘phantom children’ after auditors for the Canada Revenue Agency report widespread fraud in its \$9 billion child-benefit program.

- 28 March  
*Federal politics,  
Plans and Priorities in  
The House of Commons*
- Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, tables the 2007 Reports on Plans and Priorities in the House of Commons. The report, made on behalf of 91 federal departments and agencies, details their strategic priorities, spending, performance measurement and expected results over a three year period. Further details can be found online at [http://www.tbssct.gc.ca/rpp/0708/menu\\_e.asp](http://www.tbssct.gc.ca/rpp/0708/menu_e.asp)
- 29 March  
*Federal politics,  
Public servants  
Disclosure Protection Act*
- Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, announces the implementation of the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act and an expansion of the Access to Information Act to Crown Corporations.
- 2 April  
*Federal politics,  
Airport Capital  
Assistance Program*
- The federal government announces that airports across Canada will receive close to \$33 million for 28 new projects to enhance passenger safety. The funding is part of the Government of Canada's 2007-2008 Airports Capital Assistance Program.
- 3 April  
*Federal politics,  
federal funding,  
Rail and transit security*
- Minster of Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities Lawrence Cannon announces new projects to enhance rail and transit security under the Transit-Secure an \$80 million passenger rail and urban transit security contribution program.
- 4 April  
*federal politics,  
Military training  
Facility*
- Minister of National Defense Gordon O'Connor announces that a new multi-purpose military training facility will be constructed at Pleasantville in St' John's.
- 22 April  
*Federal politics,  
Liberal Party -  
Green Party Pact*
- Liberal leader Stéphane Dion strikes a deal with Green Party leader Elizabeth May not to run candidates in each others respective ridings as a show of solidarity. The deal marks the first time in the Liberal Party's history that it will not run a full slate of candidates in a federal election.
- 3 May  
*Federal politics,  
Federal funding*
- Minister of Public Works and Government Services Michael Fortier announces \$978,966 in new funding for the Canadian Society for Training and Development.
- 11 May  
*Federal politics,  
Representation in the  
House of Commons*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that his government will move to rectify the political under-representation of Canada's fastest-growing provinces. The proposal would eventually add 22 more seats to the House of Commons, all of them in Ontario, BC, and Alberta and would be apportioned on the basis of the 2011 census.

- 11 May  
*Federal politics,  
Funding for Asia Pacific  
Gateway Project* International Trade Minister David Emerson announces further funding in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars already committed to the Asia Pacific Gateway transportation project.
- 23 May  
*Federal politics,  
Federal funding  
Asia- Pacific Gateway  
And Corridor Initiative* Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board announces \$33.25 million in federal funding for a strategic infrastructure project in Winnipeg under the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative.
- 24 May  
*Federal politics,  
Federal funding  
Asia-Pacific Gateway  
And Corridor Initiative* Minister of National Revenue Carol Skelton is joined by Saskatoon Mayor Donald Atchison in announcing \$20 million in federal funding for strategic infrastructure projects in the city under the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative.
- 24 May  
*Federal politics,  
Federal funding  
Asia-Pacific Gateway  
And Corridor Initiative* Rona Ambrose, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, announces \$75 million in federal funding for a strategic infrastructure project in Edmonton under the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative.
- 24 May  
*Federal politics,  
FCRO* The first phase of the Foreign Credentials Referral Office is launched by Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. The FCRO is designed to help internationally trained individuals who plan to work in Canada get their credentials assessed and recognized more quickly. Approximately \$32.2 million has been set aside for the first five years of the FCRO's operation.
- June 12  
*Federal politics,  
Quebec Lieutenant  
Governor, misused funds* Auditor General Sheila Fraser reveals that former Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, Lise Thibault has misused over \$700 thousand in government funds for unaccounted travel expenses. The RCMP and Quebec Provincial Police are asked to initiate and investigation.
- June 15  
*Federal politics,  
RCMP allegations* David Brown, the independent investigator appointed to examine allegations surrounding the RCMP pension and insurance plans, reveals his findings. The report calls for immediate action to address problems in management, culture, and the overall governance of the RCMP.
- 09 July  
*Federal politics,  
Arctic Sovereignty* Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that the federal government will contract up to eight Polar Class 5 Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships and will establish a deep water port in the far North. The announcement comes amidst growing fears that rising global temperatures will cause the Northwest Passage to become a viable international shipping route, sparking an intense arctic sovereignty debate.

- 09 July**  
*Federal politics,  
Accountability Act,  
Conflict of Interest Act*
- President of the Treasury Board Vic Toews announces the next phase in the implementation of the Federal Accountability Act with the coming into force of the Conflict of Interest Act. The Act will prohibit ministers from voting on matters related to their personal gain and ensure Parliamentarians focus on the public interest.
- 11 July**  
*Federal politics,  
Federal funding,  
Manitoba flood relief*
- Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day announces that the federal government will provide \$20 million to the Province of Manitoba, under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, to cover damages sustained during flooding in 2005.
- 17 July**  
*Federal politics,  
Nova Scotia, harbours*
- Conservative MP Gerald Keddy announces that the federal government will provide \$2.3 million in funding for projects at seven key harbours in southern Nova Scotia.
- 18 July**  
*Federal politics,  
Federal funding,  
RMC in Quebec*
- The federal government announces \$200 million in funding over the next 20 years to revive the Saint-Jean campus of the Royal Military College (RMC) in Quebec. The move is designed to draw more potential francophone officers into the Canadian Forces.
- 19 July**  
*Federal politics,  
Ongoing federal funding  
For the Arts*
- The federal government pledges \$30 million a year to the Canada Council for the Arts. The funding, originally contained in the last federal budget, will now be ongoing.
- 19 July**  
*Federal politics,  
Quebec air force base*
- Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor announces that the federal government will add a rapid deployment force to a Quebec air force base, continuing a military spending spree in the province.
- 24 July**  
*Federal politics,  
Federal funding,  
Manitoba experimental  
Medicine centre*
- President of the Treasury Board Vic Toews announces that the federal government will contribute \$13.5 million to an experimental medicine centre in Manitoba, the funding will allow the \$150 million Siemens Institute for Advanced Medicine in Winnipeg to begin construction.
- 14 August**  
*Federal politics,  
Cabinet shuffle*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces a cabinet shuffle. Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor is replaced by former Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay while Agricultural Minister Chuck Strahl makes way for Gerry Ritz.
- September 4**  
*Federal politics,  
Parliament Prorogued*
- Prime Minister Harper asks Governor General Michaëlle Jean to end the current session of Parliament and to begin a new one October 16. Bills which have not passed, including proposals to terminate the gun registry, Senate Reform bills, died with the closing of Parliament.

- September 5 David Onley is sworn in as the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.  
*Federal politics,  
Ontario, Lietenant- Governor*
- September 10 Elections Canada's Chief Elections Officer Marc Maynard stands up to the House of Commons today in his announcement that he will not require Muslim women to show their faces at a polling place. Maynard says that the current election law does not contain absolute visual recognition requirements and cites the fact that about 80 000 people voted by mail in the last federal election.  
*Federal politics,  
Election Canada,  
Visual recognition*
- September 13 Canadian Heritage Minister Josée Verner is criticized for her announcement that the federal government will supply local communities with \$30 million annually for festivals. Critics claim this is tantamount to a Conservative sponsorship scandal.  
*Federal politics,  
Federal funding for  
Community festivals*
- September 17 By-elections are held in three Quebec ridings today. The results see a win for the Bloc Quebecois in Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot, for the Conservative Party in Roberval-Lac-St. Jean, and for the New Democratic Party in Outremont.  
*Federal politics,  
Federal by-election in  
Quebec*
- September 26 In Toronto, Prime Minister Harper announces that the government ran a larger surplus than they expected. He pledged to return \$725 million to voters as tax breaks. This rebate would amount to \$30-\$40 for each taxpayer. The surplus, however, led the Canadian Taxpayers Federation to argue that a \$14 billion surplus means that Canadians are over taxed. In defence, Harper suggested that his government, unlike the previous Liberal government, will not waste such a 'windfall'.  
*Federal politics,  
Surplus  
Tax rebate*
- October 4 The Department of Finance announces that effective February 2008 the position of Governor of the Bank of Canada will be held by Mark Carney, a 42-year-old former investment banker from Fort Smith Northwest Territories.  
*Federal politics,  
Bank of Canada*
- October 17 The Conservative government unveils its Speech from the Throne. The Speech includes the government's position on tax cuts, arctic sovereignty, environmental policy, and the mission in Afghanistan. Full text of the Speech can be read at <http://www.sft-ddt.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=1364>  
*Federal politics,  
Speech from the Throne*
- November 9 In light of statements made by German-Canadian businessman Karlheinz Schreiber alleging that he gave former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney \$300 000 in cash payments, Prime Minister Harper appoints a neutral advisor to investigate the matter.  
*Federal politics,  
Mulroney-Schreiber  
Allegations*
- November 20 After public outrage over the death of Mr Dziekenski, a polish emigrant who died in the Vancouver airport, the federal government asks the RCMP to look into the use of tasers.  
*Federal politics,  
RCMP*

December 19  
*Federal politics,  
 NFLD, Lieutenant-  
 Governor appointment*

Prime Minister Harper appoints John Crosbie as Newfoundland's next lieutenant-governor. Mr. Crosbie will assume his new position in February 2008.

## **Health**

11 January  
*Health,  
 Reduced wait times*

The federal government unveils a pilot project aimed at reducing wait times for children's surgery. About \$ 2.6 million will be earmarked to support the initiative in the next federal budget.

18 January  
*Health,  
 Ontario,  
 Increase Funding*

Ontario Children and Youth Services Minister Mary Anne Chambers announce \$13 million in new funding for autism therapy. The move will reduce wait times for more than 1000 children in need of the expensive treatment.

23 January  
*Health,  
 Cancer Program*

The Ontario government unveils plans to introduce new screening methods for colorectal cancer, the second biggest cancer killer in Canada. The new program will be the first of its kind in Canada.

25 January  
*Health,  
 British Columbia,  
 Increase spending*

The B.C. government announces an \$885 million increase in health-care spending in the coming fiscal year. The move is an attempt to relieve the upward spiral of health-care costs over inflation and the economic growth rate. The initiative is unveiled nearly a month before Finance Minister Carole Taylor is due to deliver her next budget on February 20.

9 February  
*Health  
 Canadian Medical  
 Association*

The Canadian Medical Association criticizes the federal government's focus on providing faster access to five key types of medical care, indicating that other areas of treatment are suffering as a result.

4 April  
*Health,  
 federal – provinces  
 territories, patient  
 Wait times guarantee*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that all ten provinces and three territories have agreed to establish a Patient Wait Times Guarantee by 2010. Individual provincial-federal agreements will be announced in the coming weeks.



- 11 April  
*Health,  
Canada, Territories,  
PEI, Patient Wait Times  
Guarantees*
- Federal Health Minister Tony Clement announces the establishment of a Patient Wait Times Guarantee with the governments of Nunavut, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories. The northern governments will be supported by \$4.5 million in federal funding, \$400 million in new funding for Canada Health Infoway, and \$30 million for new pilot projects. The Minister also announces that Prince Edward Island will establish a Patient Wait Times Guarantee for radiation therapy by March 31, 2010, to be supported by \$12.1 million in federal funding.
- 12 April  
*Health,  
Canada, B.C. patient  
Wait times guarantee*
- Health Minister Tony Clement announces that BC will establish a Patient Wait Times Guarantee for radiation therapy by March 31, 2010, to be supported by \$76.4 million in federal funding.
- June 6  
*Health,  
Canada, Australia  
Policy Dialogue*
- Minister of Health Tony Clement meets with Australian Minister of Health Tony Abbott to announce a joint Canada-Australia Policy Dialogue on health issues. The agreement creates a framework for mutual cooperation in areas like health care, health and the environment, and cancer treatment strategies.
- June 25  
*Health,  
Patient Wait Times*
- A report issued by the Health Council of Canada reveals that it is impossible to tell if medical wait times across Canada are improving despite an increase of \$5.5 billion in federal funding, due to a lack of provincial cooperation in providing statistical data to the federal government.
- 03 August  
*Health,  
B.C., pilot project*
- The Government of B.C. unveils a multi-million dollar pilot project that, if successful, will lead to several changes in emergency ward operations in hospitals across Canada.
- September 4  
*Health,  
B.C., school standards*
- The government of B.C. set school standards. According to the new standards, schools are required to ensure that all students receive a minimum of 30 minutes of daily physical activity. The government is also looking to remove all junk food from public schools.

### **Intergovernmental Relations**

- 8 January  
*Intergovernmental  
Relations,  
Ontario-Canada  
Transfer  
Payments*
- Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty speaks out against the federal government, demanding that it treat Ontario more fairly when it comes to federal transfers to the provinces in the areas of education, health care, infrastructure, and unemployment.

- 17 January  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada Saskatchewan, Equalization Payments*
- Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty informs his Saskatchewan counterpart, Andrew Thomson, that the province should not expect any equalization money from Ottawa in the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Under current legislation, the federal government will distribute \$11.7 billion in equalization payments.
- 17 January  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Project*
- The federal government and the government of Saskatchewan announce a joint project to provide \$2.2 million to the Centenary Affordable Housing Program. The program will construct a total of forty-two new low-income apartment units in Regina.
- 31 January  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada B.C., Investment plan*
- The government of B.C. and the federal government announce a joint investment of \$2.8 million to help youth from rural and First Nations communities gain experience to develop careers in the province's mining industry.
- 13 February  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Education, Council of Ministers*
- Provincial Ministers of Education join with the federal government at the Council of Ministers of Education to reaffirm the importance of a strategic agenda for postsecondary education and skills training. The Council also commits itself to the findings outlined in the Council of the Federation report, 'Competing for Tomorrow'.
- 23 March  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada - B.C., federal aid*
- Federal Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn announces \$24.8 million in federal funding to help the province of B.C. fight a growing pine beetle infestation in its interior.
- 12 April  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Fisheries*
- Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Loyola Hearn announces a series of federal-provincial measures and investments to address current challenges facing Canadian fisheries, including \$61 million over three years to broaden fish stock management.
- 23 April  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada-Saskatchewan Northern Development Agreement*
- The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan agree to extend the five-year Canada-Saskatchewan Northern Development Agreement by one year to March 31, 2008. The agreement commits both governments to provide \$20 million for strategic projects supporting economic development in northern Saskatchewan.
- 15 May  
*Intergovernmental Relations, First Ministers' Meeting*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper reveals that he will meet with Canada's premiers to discuss globalization, competitiveness, and the country's economic union in early June.

- May 28  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Cancelled FMC meeting*
- The previously announced first ministers' conference is cancelled spurring an uproar about Harper's 'decentralized' federalism.
- June 7  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Internal Trade Conference*
- Federal and provincial Ministers of Internal Trade meet in St. John's to review and discuss the progress being made on reducing or eliminating barriers to trade, investment, and labour mobility across Canada.
- June 8  
*Intergovernmental Relations, B.C. Federal funding*
- Minister of Natural Resource Gary Lunn announces an investment of \$39.6 million by the federal government for ongoing work in B.C. to address growing pine beetle infestations.
- June 25  
*Intergovernmental Relations, federal funding N.B., National Highway System, Atlantic Accord*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that work will begin on six highway projects across New Brunswick. The projects are part of a \$207 million investment by the federal government to improve National Highway System routes. Danny Williams, premier of NFLD and Labrador warns that this may be a plan to appease New Brunswick in order to deflect controversy surrounding the Atlantic Accord.
- 05 July  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Saskatchewan Transfer payments*
- Saskatchewan Premier Lorne Calvert calls for protests over the federal government's decision to keep resource revenues in the formula used to calculate transfer payments, a move which will cost the province an estimated \$800 million a year.
- 05 July  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada, Quebec, short line railway*
- The governments of Canada and Quebec jointly announce a total invest of more than \$75 million over five years to restore the infrastructure of short line railways in the province.
- 09 July  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada, Alberta, protections of Foreign workers*
- Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg and Alberta Minister of Employment, Immigration, and Industry Iris Evans jointly-announce that the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta will begin working together to strengthen protections for temporary foreign workers.
- 09 July  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada, Nova Scotia, funding for Nurse training*
- Senator Gerald Comeau, joined by Nova Scotia Premier Rodney MacDonald, announces \$2.2 million in joint federal-provincial funding for the 'New Skills for Nurses project'. The project is expected to improve skills development, training, and support for nurses in the province.

- 31 July  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada, Ontario, Corporate tax*
- The Canada Revenue Agency and the Ontario Ministry of Revenue sign a Human Resources Agreement that represents a significant first step in the move towards federal administration of Ontario's corporate taxes.
- 31 July  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada, New Brunswick, Agreement*
- Conservative MP Rob Moore, joined by New Brunswick Minister of Transportation Denis Landry, announces that the City of Moncton will receive more than \$2.66 million in federal funding for public transit system improvements under the Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on Public Transit.
- 06 August  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada, Quebec, Constitution Clarification, Cultural specificity*
- Quebec Premier Jean Charest calls upon the federal government to clarify its views on the division of powers with the provinces and spending. The call comes as the provincial government moves to hold Stephen Harper to a campaign promise to recognize the province's cultural 'specificity'.
- 14 August  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada, New Brunswick, Federal Gas Tax*
- The federal government announces an investment of over \$42 million in water, wastewater, and other infrastructure improvements to New Brunswick's unincorporated areas. The province will receive the new funding under the Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues and the Provincial Gas Tax transfer top-up fund.
- 16 August  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada, Quebec, Charter of Open Federalism*
- Quebec minister Benoit Pelletier demands constitutional recognition of the province's specificity by adopting the 'Charter of Open Federalism', which would limit federal spending power to intervene in provincial jurisdictions and potentially instigate another round of constitutional negotiations.
- October 10  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada, Nova Scotia, Atlantic Accord*
- Prime Minister Harper announces that the federal government and the government of Nova Scotia have reached an agreement regarding the Atlantic Accord. Nova Scotia is assured that it will not lose its benefits under the Atlantic Accord. Details of the agreement can be viewed at: [http://pm.gc.ca/includes/send\\_friend\\_eMail\\_print.asp?id=1848](http://pm.gc.ca/includes/send_friend_eMail_print.asp?id=1848)
- November 6  
*Intergovernmental Relations, B.C., Building Canada Fund*
- British Columbia becomes the first province to sign onto the new national infrastructure plan "The Building Canada Fund". The fund will provide \$33 billion over 7 years to invest in transportation infrastructure. British Columbia will receive \$2.2 billion over 7 years.

- November 15  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Ontario Restructuring of the House of Commons*  
Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty condemns the reintroduction of federal legislation that would see a greater number of seats in the House of Commons given to British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario. The proposed change comes from the fact that federal ridings in those provinces are, on average, 30 000 to 40 000 people larger than in other provinces – making their representation unequal. The Ontario Premier takes issue with the fact that under this new formula of representation Ontario will have 40.4% of the population of Canada by 2021 but only hold 35.6% of the seats in Parliament.
- December 21  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Equalization And Territorial payments*  
Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty confirms that Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing payments will increase by \$700 million reaching a combined total of \$15.9 billion – the highest of such payments in Canadian history.

## **International Relations**

- 8 January  
*International Relations, Canadian Beef exports*  
The Government of Canada launches a challenge to multi-billion dollar U.S. farm subsidies at the World Trade Organization. The WTO complaint deals with the impact of these subsidies on Canadian beef exports.
- 21 February  
*International Relations, Mission in Afghanistan*  
The federal Liberal Party announces that it will support Canada's NATO mission in Afghanistan until 2009. The announcement ends fears that Parliament could recall Canadian forces much earlier.
- 21 February  
*International Relations, Afghan prison conditions*  
Human rights groups petition the Federal Court of Canada to stop Canadian soldiers from handing enemy combatants captured in Afghanistan to the Afghani government amidst accusations of torture.
- 24 April  
*International Relations, Afghan prison conditions*  
Under mounting pressure from the federal opposition parties and human rights groups, the Conservative government announces that it has struck a deal which provides Canadian officials full access to Afghan jails to monitor prison conditions.
- 17 May  
*International Relations, Canada-U.S., International Traffic In Arms*  
Minister of National Defence Gordon O'Connor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter MacKay announce the signing of an arrangement between the Department of National Defence and the United States Department of State. The arrangement deals with the application of the International Traffic in Arms regulations.

- 03 July  
*International Relations,  
Afghan mission,  
Federal funding*
- Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Helena Guergis announces over \$30 million in funds and projects to strengthen Canadian reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. The funds will be used to launch programs to train judges and prosecutors, establish Afghan National Police stations, and will enhance the presence of Correctional Services Canada in the country.
- 25 August  
*International Relations,  
Afghan mission*
- Minister of International Cooperation Bev Oda announces that Canada will boost its development commitment to Afghanistan by providing \$45 million in support of five key projects targeting health and community development.
- September 3  
*International Relations,  
Mission in Afghanistan*
- Defence Minister Peter Mackay makes it known that Canada will not send troops to fight in Afghanistan beyond February 2009. Logistical support and aid will continue to be given but no combat troops are scheduled to stay unless the opposition parties support a resolution to keep them there.
- September 17  
*International  
Relations, Quebec  
Labour Mobility Act*
- Quebec Premier Jean Charest travels to France to meet with government officials hoping to move Quebec closer to a labour mobility pact with the European Union. This is the first such meeting concerning a run-up to a trans-Atlantic free trade deal between a Canadian province and a member of the European Union. Charest hopes to finalize the deal with President Sarkozy when he visits France next year for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Quebec City.
- October 31  
*International Relations,  
Mission in Afghanistan*
- General Hillier, Canada's Chief of Defence Staff, was told by the federal government to tone down his criticism regarding the Afghan mission. He was reminded that he is not the chief spokesperson of the mission. This move by the government came after General Hillier commented on the mission in Afghanistan.
- November 2  
*International Relations,  
Funds for Haiti and the  
Dominican Republic*
- The federal government announces that Canada is providing \$500,000 to help communities in Haiti and the Dominican Republic rebuild after tropical storm Noel.
- November 5  
*International Relations,  
Mission in Afghanistan  
Transfer of detainees*
- The federal government attempts to quash a human rights group's legal action. The group is asking the court to halt the transfer of detainees to local authorities in Afghanistan. The court disagreed with the federal government who argued that the deal reached between Canada and Afghanistan last May was sufficient in securing the safety of detainees.
- November 6  
*International Relations,  
Funds for Mexico*
- The federal government announces that Canada will contribute \$500 000 to Mexico to help with relief, recovery, and reconstruction efforts in the wake of major flooding.

- November 9  
*International Relations,  
China,  
Meeting cancelled* China cancels a long-planned meeting in Canada between high-level committee bureaucrats in retaliation for Prime Minister Harper's meeting with the Dalai Lama last week. The cancellation of the Strategic Working Group worries some trade analysts who are concerned that Canada is being ignored in the wake of China's economic boom.
- November 19  
*International Relations,  
Funds for Bangladesh* The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maxime Bernier announces that Canada will provide up to \$3 million to Bangladesh to aid with reconstruction after Cyclone Sidr.
- November 29  
*International Relations,  
Canada – Russia  
Bilateral agreement* The Government of Canada signs a bilateral agreement with Russia that strengthens economic cooperation with that country. The agreement will enhance relations in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, nuclear power, trade financing, and are also focused on the Arctic regions.
- December 14  
*International Relations,  
Burma economic  
sanctions* Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier announces that Canada's economic sanctions against Burma entered into force as a result of the military coup that suspended democracy in the country in late August.
- December 15  
*International Relations,  
Funds for Bangladesh* The federal government announces that it is increasing aid to Bangladesh to \$4.2 million to help with reconstruction after Cyclone Sidr.

## **Labour**

- 11 January  
*Labour,  
Saskatchewan,  
Public-sector strikes* Public-sector strikes continue across Saskatchewan. In support of the strikes, 100 court workers in Regina walk off the job bringing the province's justice system to a virtual stand-still.
- 9 February  
*Labour,  
CNR strike* A general strike at the Canadian National Railway begins, slowing the national train network to half-capacity and prompting a flurry of complaints from manufacturing and forestry industries.
- 20 February  
*Labour,  
CNR Strike* Negotiations continue to end the general strike at the Canadian National Railway, amid growing speculation that the federal government will intervene and declare the strike illegal.
- 22 February  
*Labour,  
CNR strike,  
Back to Work Legislation* Federal Minister of Labour Jean-Pierre Blackburn tables the Railway Continuation Act, 2007 in order to end the current work stoppages resulting from the Canadian National Railways dispute. The Act ends the labour strike by forcing railway employees back to work.

- 12 April  
*Labour,  
Youth Training and  
Education*
- Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Loyola Hearn announces a joint investment of \$7.5 million with the Canadian Home Builder's Association of Eastern Newfoundland for youth training and education in the home building trades.
- 22 April  
*Labour,  
Saskatchewan,  
Occupation Health and  
Safety Act*
- The Government of Saskatchewan acts to change provincial labour laws defining harassment in the workplace. The Occupation Health and Safety Act will now be amended to broaden the definition of harassment to target intimidation by co-workers.
- June 6  
*Labour,  
CPR Labour dispute*
- Minister of Labour Jean-Pierre Blackburn reveals that a tentative agreement has been struck in the ongoing labour dispute between the Canadian Pacific Railway and its maintenance employees, who have been striking since May 15.
- 19 July  
*Labour,  
CNR contract*
- Government arbitrators impose a contract for train crews and the Canadian National Railway, after strikes earlier in the year paralyzed the country's railways.
- 20 July  
*Labour,  
Vancouver city workers'  
Strike*
- Thousands of workers for the City of Vancouver join striking forestry workers on the picket lines. Vancouver municipal workers begin the strike three days ahead of schedule, sparking a labour relations crisis in the province.

## **Municipalities**

- 9 February  
*Municipalities,  
Federal sales tax,  
Funding for cities*
- The mayors of Canada's four biggest cities form a common front to push Prime Minister Stephen Harper to abandon a proposed federal sales-tax cut and instead provide money for investments in public transit and infrastructure.
- 23 April  
*Municipalities,  
Toronto- Ontario  
Lawsuit*
- The City of Toronto moves ahead with plans to sue the province of Ontario in order to receive the \$71 million it claims is owed to it under a cost-sharing agreement with the province for social services.
- 3 May  
*Municipalities,  
Mayors' campaign*
- The mayors of Canada's biggest cities join Toronto in campaigning for a one-cent share of the federal sales tax.
- June 1  
*Municipalities,  
Federal funding,  
Infrastructure investment*
- Speaking at the 70<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces a new \$33 billion infrastructure investment plan to revitalize municipal services.



- 24 July  
*Municipalities,  
Federal Gas Tax  
Revenue*
- The municipality of Saint John will receive its first payment of \$2.5 million under the new Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues and the Provincial Gas Tax Transfer Top-up.
- 27 July  
*Municipalities,  
Canada, B.C.,  
Gas Tax Agreement*
- Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities Lawrence Cannon and B.C. Minister of Community Services Ida Chong announce the semi-annual installment of \$15.4 million in federal funding under the Gas Tax Agreement. The funding will be distributed to 161 local governments in B.C.
- 01 August  
*Municipalities,  
Federal funding  
Atlantic Canada*
- Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day announces more than \$1.4 million in funding for seven projects to help Atlantic Canadian communities with crime prevention.
- 21 August  
*Municipalities,  
Annual Conference of  
Municipalities*
- The annual conference of municipalities begins with Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announcing a \$935 million investment in municipal social programs to assist cash-strapped city councils in the province.
- December 10  
*Municipalities,  
Ottawa municipal  
Elections allegations*
- Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien is charged with two criminal code offences related to his election victory. He allegedly attempted to bribe his opponent to drop out of last years municipal election. The hearing is to begin January 9, 2008.

## **Provincial Politics**

- 2 January  
*Provincial Politics,  
Ontario*
- Ontario Minister for Training, Colleges, and Universities Chris Bently announces an increase of \$1 billion to the training and employment services offered through Employment Ontario.
- 3 January  
*Provincial Politics,  
Manitoba,  
Tuition Tax Credit*
- The Government of Manitoba unveils a new initiative that will offer \$25 thousand in tuition tax credits to any college or university graduate who moves to the province beginning in the spring. The move is part of the government's strategy to prevent skilled graduates from leaving the province.
- 10 January  
*Provincial Politics,  
Manitoba,  
Government loans*
- Nova Scotia's Conservative government announces that the public accounts committee will be asked to investigate why it was denied key information about two controversial government loans.

- 17 January  
*Provincial Politics,  
NFLD and Labrador,  
Off-shore Resources*
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador rejects a plan to expand its offshore Hibernia oil field due to a lack of key information in an application made by the project's operator. The move marks the second time in less than a year that the province has refused a request by major oil companies to gain access to its significant energy reserves.
- 20 January  
*Provincial Politics,  
British Columbia,  
Women's Programs*
- Approximately 60 women demonstrate outside the Status of Women Canada's Vancouver office following the B.C. government's cuts to women's programs. The protesters later meet with the federal minister responsible for the status of women in an attempt to diffuse the situation.
- 17 February  
*Provincial Politics,  
Quebec – nation  
Within Canada*
- Quebec Premier Jean Charest sparks election speculation in a speech positioning his party as the voice of the Quebec nation within Canada.
- 26 March  
*Provincial Politics,  
Quebec Elections,*
- Elections in Quebec result in the first minority government in the province's political history. Quebec Premier Jean Charest's Liberal Party barely retains power after suffering heavy losses to Mario Dumont's Action Democratique du Quebec. The separatist Parti Quebecois, under the troubled leadership of André Bosclair, comes third.
- 14 April  
*Provincial Politics,  
Ontario referendum*
- The Government Ontario announces that a referendum will be held on electoral reform. The referendum will be the first held in the province since 1921 and will ask the electorate to consider a new voting arrangement which would result in the share of seats each party wins being roughly equal to its take of the popular vote.
- 20 April  
*Provincial Politics,  
Ontario,  
Slush fund controversy*
- The Government of Ontario is embroiled in controversy surrounding a \$20 million slush fund used to dispense money to various ethnic groups with little public oversight.
- 9 May  
*Provincial politics,  
Quebec-Ontario,  
free-trade*
- Quebec Premier Jean Charest reveals that the province will seek a free-trade agreement with Ontario as part of a concerted attempt to revive the province's economic fortunes. Charest also indicates that Quebec would be interested in pursuing a similar agreement with the European Union.
- 10 May  
*Provincial Politics,  
Ontario, Special  
Investigation*
- Following mounting pressure, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty asks the province's Auditor-General to conduct a special investigation of several grants given to ethnic groups with close ties to the Liberal Party.

- 18 May  
*Provincial Politics,  
Alberta and B.C.  
Economic ties*
- Alberta and B.C. announce that they will renew efforts to forge one of the country's largest economic regions, with the province's cabinets meeting in Edmonton to discuss ways of strengthening economic ties between the two jurisdictions.
- 22 May  
*Provincial Politics,  
Manitoba provincial  
Election*
- Manitoba Premier Gary Doer's New Democratic Party wins a re-election in a landslide victory which sees the party secure a strong majority in the provincial legislature.
- 25 May  
*Provincial Politics,  
Territories  
Vision on northern  
Development*
- Canada's three territorial premiers jointly release a broad collaborative vision for the north at the Northern Premiers Forum held in Whitehorse. The agreement focuses on sovereignty and sustainable communities, adapting to climate change, and circumpolar relations.
- 28 May  
*Provincial Politics,  
PEI,  
Provincial election*
- Voters go to the polls in Prince Edward Island. The province's incumbent Progressive Conservative government is defeated by the Liberal opposition after holding power for a record eleven years. Premier Pat Binns will be succeeded by Robert Ghiz.
- June 4  
*Provincial Politics,  
NFLD and Labrador,  
Offshore oil  
And gas development*
- The government of Newfoundland and Labrador announces that it will seek a 5% stake in all future offshore oil and gas developments, using the revenues to create a new energy company that will pursue exploration and development projects in the province.
- June 24  
*Provincial Politics,  
Atlantic provinces,  
Atlantic Accord*
- At the gathering of Eastern Canadian Premiers and New England governors, Atlantic Premiers meet privately to discuss their concerns regarding the Atlantic Accord and equalization payments.
- 08 August  
*Provincial politics,  
Council of Federation,  
Meeting*
- Canada's provincial and territorial premiers meet at the annual Council of the Federation. The agenda included efforts to develop an alternative national climate-change plan aimed at replacing the blueprint put forward by Stephen Harper's federal Conservatives.
- 22 August  
*Provincial politics,  
NFLD and Labrador,  
State-owned oil and gas  
Company*
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador strikes a deal that will give it equity stake in the offshore Hebron oil project. The deal is the first major step for the province's plan to build a major state-owned oil and gas company and will see the province spend \$110 million for a 4.9% stake in the \$5 billion project.

- 28 August  
*Provincial politics,  
NFLD and Labrador,  
Expense scandal*
- Three men, including a former top lieutenant in the Newfoundland and Labrador government, are charged in connection with an expense scandal that has led to an overhaul of the legislature's spending practices. The charges stem from an exhaustive investigation by the province's Auditor-General who revealed that \$4.4 million of public money was misused.
- October 9  
*Provincial Politics,  
NFLD and Labrador, election*
- The Newfoundland and Labrador provincial election sees another majority government formed by Danny Williams' Conservative Party.
- October 10  
*Provincial Politics,  
Ontario, election*
- The Liberal Party of Ontario, under Dalton McGuinty, wins its second majority government. A provincial referendum to change Ontario's voting system to a multi-member plurality system fails to pass.
- November 1  
*Provincial Politics,  
Quebec, Immigration  
Plan*
- Quebec releases its new immigration plan. With the new strategy, the government of Quebec hopes to attract 55 000 newcomers to the province by 2010. This plan comes in response to Quebec's labour shortage and decline in the birth rate.
- November 7  
*Provincial Politics,  
Saskatchewan  
Provincial election*
- The Saskatchewan Party wins the Saskatchewan provincial election. Premier-elect Brad Wall's government is to be sworn in on November 21, 2007. Wall is to be expected to come to an agreement with the federal government on the dispute over non-renewable resource revenues.
- November 19  
*Provincial Politics,  
B.C., RCMP*
- The B.C. government launches a full-scale inquiry into the death of Polish emigrant Robert Dziekanski. Mr. Dziekanski passed away soon after he was tasered by RCMP officials in the Vancouver airport.
- November 28  
*Provincial Politics,  
Manitoba, protection of  
Children*
- The Manitoba government introduces new legislation that will make it mandatory for Canadians, including computer technicians and internet service providers, to report any images or examples of child pornography.

## **Senate**

- June 7  
*Senate Reform  
Rejection of reform bill*
- The Liberal dominated Senate sparks a constitutional uproar by rejecting Prime Minister Stephen Harper's plan to reform the upper house, shelving it indefinitely. Under the Harper plan, senators would have an 8 year term limit. The legality of the bill will now be heard by the Supreme Court of Canada, which will decide whether or not Parliament can impose the proposed changes unilaterally.

- September 11  
*Senate,  
Harper speech in  
Australia*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper becomes the first Canadian leader to address the Parliament of Australia. Harper’s speech makes specific reference to Canada’s supposed ‘senate envy’ of Australia and applauds their adoption of an elected upper chamber. Harper also remarks that the Canadian Senate should be reformed to meet the example set by Australia.
- November 6  
*Senate Reform,  
Referendum*
- Prime Minister Harper makes a public statement that if the House of Commons cannot reform the Senate through legislation he would support a national referendum on the subject of abolition.
- November 6  
*Senate Reform,  
Quebec Motion*
- The Quebec government adopts the motion – “any changes to the Canadian Senate cannot be done without the consent of the government of Quebec and the National Assembly,” - signalling to the federal government that Quebec needs to be consulted if it plans to change the Senate.
- November 13  
*Senate Reform*
- The federal government introduces two pieces of legislation in the House of Commons: the *Senate Appointment Consultations Act* and the *Constitution Act, 2007* (Senate tenure). Both bills will seek to pass in order to reform the Senate of Canada before the government moves to abolish the Senate entirely.

## **Social Policy**

- 9 March  
*Social Policy,  
Federal funding,  
Third place  
Transition House*
- Conservative MP Bill Casey, on behalf of the Department of Human Resources and Social Development, announces \$425 thousand in federal funding for the Third Place Transition House, a shelter for women and children fleeing violence.
- 24 April  
*Social Policy,  
Alberta, Affordable  
Housing*
- The Government of Alberta commits \$285 million to battle a growing affordable housing crisis in the province.
- June 21  
*Social Policy,  
Canada, NFLD and  
Labrador, Affordable  
Housing*
- The federal government in partnership with the government of Newfoundland announces more than \$2 million in new funding to create 65 affordable housing units in eight communities. The investment is part of the new Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Affordable Housing Program Agreement.

## **Supreme Court**

12 January  
*Supreme Court,*  
*Tax collection*

The Supreme Court of Canada rules that governments that collect taxes they are not entitled to must repay them. The ruling ends a financial loophole which had allowed municipal, provincial, and federal governments to keep the profits of ill-gotten tax collection.

June 28  
*Supreme Court,*  
*Tobacco case*

The Supreme Court of Canada renders a landmark decision in the constitutional challenge to the federal Tobacco Act. The Court upheld the entirety of the 1997 law, refuting claims that restrictions on sponsorship promotion and advertising of tobacco products are unconstitutional.

November 13  
*Ontario Court of Appeal,*  
*Freedom of the Press*

The Ontario Court of Appeal rules unanimously that reporters are able to publish contentious allegations that benefit the public. With this decision, the Court indicated that the reputation of an individual does not trump the public's right to know. One caveat however - journalism must be practised responsibly.