

**Chronology of Events**  
**January 2002 – December 2002**

*Adele Mugford with Aaron Holdway*

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8 January 2002  
*Health*

The Premier’s Advisory Council on Health releases the Alberta-commissioned Mazankowski Report on health care reform proposals. A major recommendation includes a new health “debit” card that automatically displays a



clarifying the *Canada Health Act*

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

7 February 2002

*Aboriginal Peoples*

Quebec Premier Bernard Landry and Cree Grand Chief Ted Moses sign an agreement to recognize a new relationship between the Cree of Quebec and the provincial government. This marks the first time that recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples have been applied in Canada. In particular, the agreement will see the Cree drop all lawsuits against the province and consent to the construction of the Rupert-Eastmain hydro-electric project in return for payments totalling \$3.4 billion over the next 50 years. A deal made outside of the agreement with Hydro-Quebec guarantees \$862 million in contracts to the Cree for building and environmental cleanup.

13-14 February 2002

*Justice*

Federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for justice meet in Moncton, NB, to discuss a wide range of issues. They discuss implementation of the *Anti-Terrorism Act*, expressing general support for new hoax offence provisions; cost-sharing of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, agreeing, with the exception of Quebec, to a target date of April 2003 for the new Act to come into force; the creation of two new offences under the Criminal Code concerning acts of criminal voyeurism and distributing visual images through the Internet and by other means; and further measures to create a national approach to sex offender registration for police use.

15 February 2002

*Municipalities*

A dozen mayors from Canada's largest cities gather in Ottawa in connection with ongoing efforts to pressure sen-

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

20 February 2002  
*Northwest Territories*

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

21 February 2002  
*Trade*

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

28 February 2002  
*Equalization*

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

5 March 2002

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

12 March 2002  
*British Columbia*

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

13 March 2002  
*Parliament*

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

13 March 2002  
*Aboriginal Peoples*

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

19 March 2002  
*Newfoundland and Labrador*

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

19 March 2002  
*Alberta*

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

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

19 March 2002  
*Quebec*

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

21 March 2002  
*Newfoundland and  
Labrador*

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

21 March 2002  
*Trade*

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

23 March 2002  
*Ontario*



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

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

15 April 2002  
*Political Parties*

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

15 April 2002  
*Ontario*

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

24 April 2002  
*Health*

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

1 May 2002  
*Aboriginal Peoples*

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

7 May 2002  
*Quebec*

The Quebec government introduces legislation to tighten its French Language Charter to address what Premier Bernard Landry calls a “loophole” in the current law. Bill 104, which includes new guidelines to make it more difficult for immigrant and francophone children to attend English public schools, will be passed by spring. More specifically, children will no longer gain eligibility to attend English public schools after spending one year in an English private school, nor will the government continue to provide Quebec-based companies written communication in English.

9 May 2002  
*Ontario*

Ontario Premier Ernie Eves’ first Throne Speech claims a new era has begun under a new government with new challenges and new solutions. The Eves government explains that it wants to listen to and work in partnership with educators, health care workers, parents, and any other identifiable groups. There are suggestions of increased per-student funding and promises to review the funding formula via a special task force, which is expected to report back in November. In addition to renewing commitments made during his leadership campaign — to establish three-year base funding for school boards — the Eves government is promising to spend more money on

29 May 2002  
*Ontario*

Ontario Energy Minister Chris Stockwell announces new legislation to enable the sale of the Hydro One power grid and other provincial assets. The legislation — the *Reliable Energy and Consumer Protection Act* — will make changes to the *Electricity Act* and will secure the Ontario government's ownership of the lands underneath the hydro transmission corridors with a view to keeping them available for public use. The government further suggests that leasing the power grid to the private sector may prove to be a viable alternative. w4.he srvtlAct — wO sug8

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

4-6 June 2002  
*Western Canada*

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

7 June 2002  
*Municipalities*



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

24 June 2002  
*Housing*

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

27-28 June 2002  
*Agriculture*

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

28 June 2002  
*Housing*

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

1 July 2002  
*Supreme Court of  
Canada*

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

3 July 2002  
*Aboriginal Peoples*

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

15 July 2002  
*Federal Court of  
Canada*

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

16-18 July 2002  
*Aboriginal Peoples*

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



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

30 July 2002

*Trade*

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

31 July-2 August  
2002

*Premiers' Meeting*

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



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

4-5 September 2002  
*Health*

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

7 September 2002  
*Quebec*

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

17 September 2002  
*Geoscience*

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

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

23-24 September  
2002  
*Women*

Federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for the status of women meet in Whitehorse, YT, to dis-

work together to implement the UN Convention on Biological Diversity; review progress on priorities for action under the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy and, as part of this review, approve a national blueprint for addressing the threat of invasive species; approve Canada's Steward-

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

27 September 2002  
*Fisheries*

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

30 September 2002  
*Supreme Court of Canada*

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

30 September 2002  
*Softwood Lumber*

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

3-4 October 2002  
*Francophone Affairs*

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

French-language services and the development of

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

16 October 2002  
*Immigration*

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

28 October 2002  
*Northwest Territories*

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

28 October 2002  
*Climate Change*

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



30 October 2002  
*Economic and Fiscal Update*

Federal Finance Minister John Manley delivers his 2002 Economic and Fiscal Update speech to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. Manley says Canadians are reaping the benefits of sound economic and fiscal management, pointing to five consecutive budget surpluses, the paying down of more than \$46 billion of the national debt, and a debt-to-Gross Domestic Product ratio that has fallen from 71 percent in 1995-1996 to 49 percent, the largest decline of any G-7 country. He also notes that Canada avoided recession during the global slowdown of 2001 and posted strong economic growth in 2002. Manley says Canada's economy grew at an annualized rate of more than 5 percent in the first half of 2002, from January to September the economy created 427,000 new jobs, and real personal disposable income per person rose 2.9 percent over the previous year. A survey of private sector forecasts shows that economic growth is expected to average 3.4 percent in 2002 and 3.5 percent in 2003, with Canada leading the G-7 in both years, Manley adds. The minister also notes that for 2001-2002, Canada recorded a budget surplus of \$8.9 billion, which went to reduce the national debt.

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

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

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

2 December 2002

- 4 December 2002  
*Ontario* Ontario Finance Minister Janet Ecker confirms that her government will sell off more than \$2 billion in public assets over the next four months to help balance this year's provincial budget. The asset sales include a small rural savings bank, the government's share in an electronic land registry company, publicly-owned real estate, and a 49 percent share in Hydro One.
- 7 December 2002  
*Tourism* Federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for tourism meet in Victoria, BC. The purpose of the meet-

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

18 December 2002  
*Governor General*

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

19 December 2002  
*Supreme Court of Canada*

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

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*Francophone Affairs* 3-4 October

*Geoscience* 17 September

*Governor General* 18 December

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

*Housing* 30 May, 24 June, 28 June

*Immigration* 16 October

*Justice* 13-14 February, 4-6 November

*Municipalities*

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

*Parliament* 13 March

*Political Parties* 9 April, 15 April, 17 June

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

*Prime Minister* 21 August

*Prince Edward Island* 30 May

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

*Saskatchewan* 26 September

*Social Services* 31 May, 22 November

*Softwood Lumber* 30 September

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

*Tourism* 7 December

*Trade* 21 February, 21 March, 30 July

*Western Canada* 4-6 June

*Women* 23-24 September

*Yukon Territory* 4 November