

CHRONOLOGY 2008

Index

21 May
*Aboriginal Peoples
Canada, B.C.
First Nations Leadership*

The Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and the First Nations Leadership Council sign a historic Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing to work together to develop a comprehensive

Tribunal Act superior court judges, can award compensation on claims worth up to \$150 million.

19 June House of Commons passes legislation that repeals section 67 of the
Aboriginal Peoples Canadian Human Rights Act, ending a gap that left many individuals living on reserves without full access to the Act.

27 June Minister of Indian Affairs Chuck Strahl announces the passage of the

Forestry

Ministry acted without meaningful consultation or adequate accommodation of Aboriginal interests. Further, it failed to acknowledge

province will get involved in negotiations with Ottawa if there are any. Max Gros-Louis, chief of the Huron-Wendat Nation, said a comprehensive land claim will be filed in the spring over the traditional territory occupied by the Huron-Wendat over the past 300 years.

18 October
Aboriginal Peoples
Central Urban

The Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) will receive a one time capital grant of \$50,000 in provincial funding to help pay for a new central office in Saskatoon. Founded in 1993, CUMFI offers health, wellness,

Relations and the Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission each pledged \$150,000.

Agriculture

- 25 February
Agriculture
Canada Wheat Board
- The federal government loses its court battle over the Canadian Wheat Board. The Federal Court of Appeal upholds a previous court ruling made last year which stated that the Conservative government exceeded its power when it tried to strip the Wheat Board of its monopoly.
- 3 March
Agriculture
Federal government
Canada Wheat Board
- The Government of Canada introduces amendments to the *Canadian Wheat Board Act* in the House of Commons. The amendments will clear the way for barley marketing freedom and introduce a requirement respecting commercial dispute resolution.
- 14 April
Agriculture
Farming funds
- In an unprecedented move to control food prices, the federal government announces that it will pay hog farmers up to \$50 million to slaughter as many as 150,000 breeding hogs. Farmers will receive approximately \$225 for every hog killed, but must eliminate their entire breeding herd and agree to stay out of the hog business for three years.
- 14 June
Agriculture
Federal funding
Saskatchewan
AgriRecovery
- The federal government announces that it will provide up to \$9 million in financial assistance to farmers in southwest Saskatchewan affected by years of drought. Federal assistance is being made available under AgriRecovery and will be delivered through the Saskatchewan Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program.
- 20 June
Agriculture
Canadian Wheat Board
- The Federal Court rules that the Conservative government violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms by ordering the Canadian Wheat Board not to spend money to defend its marketing system. The ruling overturns a 2006 cabinet order forcing the Board not to defend its monopoly on grain sales.
- 11 July
Agriculture
“Growing Forward”
Shared cost
Program
- Agriculture ministers sign a new framework for farm programs, "Growing Forward." The federal government still has to work out details with each province. Funding for everything in the framework but the farm safety net programs will total \$1.3 billion over five years, cost shared on a 60-40 basis between Ottawa and the provinces. Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said the agreements will allow for more flexibility to better suit local needs. Bilateral agreements are expected to be launched before April 1. Growing Forward replaces the Agricultural Policy Framework. Business risk management programs have also been changed and renamed under the Conservative government as part of Growing Forward.

- 01 August
Agriculture
Tobacco farmers
- Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announces the federal government will pay tobacco farmers more than \$300 million in an effort to help farmers find new crops and get out of the tobacco industry altogether. The announcement follows long-standing demands by area farmers for upward of \$1 billion to help get them out of the tobacco business. Some \$286 million is being provided for the Tobacco Transition Program, plus \$15 million for community development initiatives “to help communities transition to a non-tobacco-based economy.”
- 06 August
Agriculture
Potato growers
- Alberta seed-potato growers who had their valuable export business shut down by a soil pest will receive up to \$23.5 million in compensation from the federal and provincial governments. The United States and Mexico banned all Alberta seed potatoes last October after the potato cyst nematode was found at two Edmonton area farms. The borders were reopened in March, in time to plant this year's crop. However, Alberta's 60 producers had lost an estimated \$35 million in sales, according to Potato Growers of Alberta.
- 06 September
Agriculture
Canadian cattle
Farmers
Compensation
- Canadian cattle farmers win a judge's approval to sue the government as a group to try to recover losses resulting from a 26-month ban on beef and cattle exports to the United States. The farmers lost an estimated \$4 billion as a result of the ban, which was put in place after a cow in Alberta was discovered to have bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), more commonly known as mad cow disease. The Canadian government argued that farmers can take advantage of provincial and federal compensation programs already in place. Critics said that would not provide the remedies the farmers seek because they cannot apply retroactively.
- 10 November
Agriculture
Farmers' Market
- Guy Lauzon, Member of Parliament for Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry, on behalf of Gerry Ritz, Federal Agriculture Minister, announces the creation of a new organization, to be known as Farmers' Markets Canada (FMC). It will look at national issues impacting farmers' markets across Canada and it will undertake activities to increase the number of farmers' markets. FMC will also develop a network of industry and community partners to share knowledge and expertise, and find community/industry-driven solutions to support national and rural economic development. The new organization is conducting a market study to develop a profile of shoppers and vendors at farmers' markets. Their recommendations will be developed and the results1 gc9

Support

of problems for P.E.I. producers including harvesting challenges, potatoes

19 March <i>Budget</i> <i>Saskatchewan</i>	Saskatchewan Finance Minister Rod Gantfoer tables the province's 2008-2009 budget. Full details of the budget can be found online at: www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget/
20 March <i>Budget</i> <i>Yukon</i>	The Government of the Yukon tables its 2008-2009 budget. Details of the budget can be found online at: www.finance.gov.yk.ca/general/publications.html
25 March <i>Budget</i> <i>Ontario</i>	Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan tables the province's controversial 2008-2009 budget. During the lead up to the budget's unveiling, federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty had been embroiled in a dispute with the province over its high unemployment and poor economic performance. The budget, which projects just 0.4 percent of additional revenue and calls for just 0.2 percent of additional spending in the 2008-2009 fiscal year, does not include Flaherty's proposed reduction in Ontario's general corporate income tax rate of 14 percent. Full details of the budget can be found online at: ontariobudget.ca/english/
09 April <i>Budget</i> <i>Manitoba</i>	Manitoba Minister of Finance Greg Selinger tables the province's 2008-2009 budget. The budget contains strategic tax cuts for manufacturers, small businesses, and families in hopes of encouraging steady economic growth. Full details of the budget can be found online at: www.gov.mb.ca/finance/budget08/index.html
22 April <i>Budget</i> <i>Alberta</i>	Alberta Finance Minister Iris Evans tables the province's 2008-2009 budget. The \$37 billion budget contains increased spending to cover the rising cost of oil production in the province. Full details of the budget can be found online at: www.finance.gov.ab.ca/business/budget/index.html
23 April <i>Budget</i> <i>P.E.I.</i>	The Government of Prince Edward Island tables its 2008-2009 budget. Full details of the budget can be found online at: www.gov.pe.ca/budget/2008/index.php
29 April <i>Budget</i> <i>N.S.</i>	Nova Scotia Finance Minister Michael Baker tables the province's 2008-2009 budget. Full details of the budget can be found online at: www.gov.ns.ca/finance/en/home/budget/default.aspx
29 April <i>Budget</i> <i>N.L.</i>	Thomas Marshall, Finance Minister of Newfoundland and Labrador, tables the province's 2008-2009 budget. Full details can be found online at: www.budget.gov.nl.ca/budget2008/
22 May <i>Budget</i> <i>NWT</i>	Northwest Territories Finance Minister Floyd Roland unveils the territory's 2008-2009 budget. Full details of the budget can be found online at: http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/

automakers. The federal and provincial governments will exercise oversight over the use of taxpayer money as part of its ongoing due diligence. Every stakeholder in the auto industry will also be expected to do their part to reduce structural costs and ensure a viable auto industry in Canada. The Prime Minister announces two additional steps the federal government will take to support the overall competitiveness of the auto industry. Automotive suppliers will have greater access to accounts receivable insurance through EDC coverage to compensate for the reduced availability of credit. In addition the Government of Canada will create a new facility to support access to credit for consumers with particular attention paid to improve the accessibility of car loans and dealer financing.

22 December
Economy
Federal Politics
Auto bailout

Jim Arnett, a special auto industry adviser to Prime Minister Stephen Harper resigns after less than three weeks on the job. However, he will continue to advise Premier Dalton McGuinty on restructuring the auto industry. The development suggests Canada is unlikely to follow American president-elect Barack Obama's lead and appoint a so-called car czar to oversee the companies. The move came on the eve of the announcement that Ottawa and Queen's Park are lending \$4 billion to General Motors of Canada Ltd. and Chrysler Canada Inc. The provincial official said Mr. Arnett was "supportive" of Saturday's announcement, which he helped develop.

28 December
Economy
Federal Government
Ontario
Alberta
Quebec
Commercial paper

The federal government, in co-ordination with the Ontario, Quebec and Alberta governments, agrees to provide \$4.45 billion in backstops to ensure the \$32 billion restructuring of insolvent commercial paper proceeds. In confirming that all key stakeholders were in agreement, the announcement by the committee overseeing the restructuring raises hope that investors who have had their asset-backed commercial papers frozen for the past 16 months could get access to their money as early as mid-January. The committee leading the court-supervised reorganization had originally requested a \$9.5 billion standby facility from the federal government. Ottawa had been in talks in December with the provinces to seek their participation in contributing to the line of credit. Those three provinces have Crown-owned entities that hold the insolvent commercial paper, led by Quebec's big pension fund, the Caisse de dépôt et Placement.

Environment

24 January
Environment
Alberta Climate Action

The Government of Alberta unveils its new climate change action plan. The plan shifts the government's focus for emissions reductions from its booming oil industry and coal power utilities to new consumer efficiency

Plan

strategies. The announcement comes a week before the provincial and territorial premiers are expected to meet at a climate change summit in

<p>10 March <i>Environment</i> <i>Federal government</i> <i>Turning the Corner</i></p>	<p>The Government of Canada publishes details of <i>Turning the Corner</i>, its climate change action plan. The strategy includes new draft rules aimed at imposing stricter emission limits on coal-fired electricity and oil sands projects. Projects starting operations in 2012 and beyond will now be required to reduce emissions using carbon capture and sequestration technology.</p>
<p>25 March <i>Environment</i> <i>Canada-Saskatchewan</i> <i>Carbon capture system</i></p>	<p>Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that the federal government will provide \$240 million to partner Saskatchewan in developing one of the world's first commercial-scale carbon capture and storage demonstration projects.</p>
<p>11 April <i>Environment</i> <i>Manitoba</i> <i>Kyoto targets</i></p>	<p>Manitoba Premier Gary Doer announces that the province will be the first in Canada to legislate its commitment to reaching the Kyoto targets for greenhouse gas emissions by 2012. Manitoba will now reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions by 6 percent below 1990 levels, as called for in Canada's original commitment to the Kyoto Protocol.</p>
<p>21 April <i>Environment</i> <i>B.C. Marine Protected Area</i></p>	<p>Minister of Natural Resources Gary Lunn announces that British Columbia's Bowie Seamount area will be designated as Canada's newest Marine Protected Area.</p>
<p>20 May <i>Environment</i> <i>Federal Government</i> <i>Port Hope</i> <i>Clean up initiative</i></p>	<p>The Government of Canada announces that it will commit an additional \$30 million in funding in an ongoing effort to clean up local low-level radioactive waste in the Port Hope region in Ontario. The Port Hope Area Initiative is part of the federal government's wider efforts to support environmental clean-up initiatives across the country.</p>
<p>30 May <i>Environment</i> <i>Federal funding</i></p>	<p>Minister of Canadian Heritage Josée Verner announces that municipalities in Quebec will receive federal funding to support environmentally sustainable infrastructure to promote clean air, water, and greenhouse gas reductions.</p>
<p>04 June <i>Environment</i> <i>Federal Government</i> <i>Clean Air Foundation</i> <i>National Vehicle Scrappage Program</i></p>	<p>Environment Minister John Baird announces that the federal government, in conjunction with the Clean Air Foundation, will launch a National Vehicle Scrappage Program. The initiative will offer financial incentives to consumers who retire their 1995 or older model vehicles in order to improve average vehicle emissions standards.</p>
<p>01 July <i>Environment</i> <i>B.C. Carbon tax</i></p>	<p>The British Columbia government's Climate Action Plan comes into force, requiring drivers to pay an extra 2.4 cents per litre at the gas pumps. The carbon tax will be phased in over five years, rising to 7.24 cents per litre by 2012. The tax applies to all fossil fuels, including gasoline, diesel, natural gas, coal, propane and home-heating fuel. The tax is revenue-</p>

full-service recycling drop-off depot; new buildings and equipment for managing hazardous wastes and organic materials; and a comprehensive recycling drop off.

09 September
Environment
Alberta
Oil Spill

An Alberta oil well spill kills up to 500 ducks and swallows. The birds died after landing in the spill, which was found at an out-of-service conventional oil well in the southwest corner of CFB Suffield in south-eastern Alberta. The well is operated by Calgary-based Harvest Energy Trust. The new deaths occur at a bad time for Canadian oil companies, whose public image was tarnished earlier this year when 500 ducks and other waterfowl strayed into a waste pond at the Syncrude Canada Ltd. oil sands facility. Pictur

16 January
Federal Politics
Nuclear Safety
Commission

Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn replaces Linda Keen as President of the Nuclear Safety Commission. Lunn cites Keen's decision to continue the extended shut down of the Chalk River reactor as the primary reason for her dismissal.

21 January
Federal Politics
Infrastructure
funding

The Government of Canada reveals that an additional \$19.8 million will be provided to rail and urban transit operators in Canada's largest urban centres for the development of new training programs, updated security technology, communication equipment and the development of a risk assessment and security plan. The funding will be provided under the Government's \$80 million Transit-Secure initiative.

22 January

Minister of Industry Jim Prentice

*RCMP election
Investigation*

in downtown Ottawa. They were searching for information related to Mr. Corbett's investigation into whether dozens of Conservative candidates improperly claimed advertising expenses that should have been declared by the national party. The probe is unprecedented in the history of Elections Canada.

*02 May
Federal Politics
Funding
Vancouver-based
Fuel cell & hydrogen
Industry*

Industry Minister Jim Prentice and Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn announce that the federal government will invest \$13.6 million in the National Research Council's (NRC) Vancouver-based fuel cell and hydrogen industry. The announcement is part of a larger \$118 million Government of Canada investment in six NRC technology cluster initiatives – Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Technologies in Vancouver; Nanotechnology in Edmonton; Plants for Health and Wellness in Saskatoon; Biomedical Technologies in Winnipeg; Photonics in Ottawa and Aluminum Transformation in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region.

*12 May
Federal Politics
Defense Strategy*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper unveils the federal government's new 'Canada First' defense strategy. The strategy will aim to substantially strengthen the Canadian Armed Forces through increased troop and reserve recruitment, the replacement of ageing equipment, and improved surveillance of Canada's land and coastal borders.

14 May

Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resour

Couillard. Bernier is replaced by David Emerson, former Minister of International Trade.

04 June
Federal Politics
Quebec, B.C.
Safe injection site

Health Minister Tony Clement sparks protests in British Columbia by announcing that the federal government will not necessarily oppose the opening of a safe-injection site in Quebec. Last month, Clement had stated that the federal government would appeal a BC Supreme Court ruling in favour of keeping open the safe-injection site in Vancouver's downtown eastside.

18 June
Federal Politics
Canada Marine Act

Minister of Transport Lawrence Cannon announces amendments to the *Canada Marine Act*. The amendments strengthen the operating framework for Canada Port Authorities by modifying the current borrowing regime, providing access to contribution funding, and clarifying some aspects of governance.

18 June
Federal Politics
RCMP
Conducted Energy Weapons

Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day commits the federal government to reviewing current guidelines for the use of Conducted Energy Weapons by the RCMP. The commitment comes after the release of the final report of the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP on the use of tasers, following the death of a Polish immigrant, Robert Dziekanski, last year. Among the recommendations is the requirement of 5 years experience before an officer can be issued a taser.

19 June
Federal Politics
Access-to-information
Law

Canada's Federal Court rules that the country's access-to-information law does not apply to the offices of the Prime Minister or Cabinet Ministers. In a decision in an omnibus test case that some fear will dramatically reduce the scope of citizens' rights to obtain government documents, the court said some records created by ministers' aides could be disclosed when they are controlled by the bureaucracy, but are off limits in a minister's office or in the PMO.

19 June
Federal Politics
Linguistic Duality

Minister of Canadian Heritage Josée Verner releases the *Roadmap for Linguistic Duality in Canada 2008-2013: Acting for the Future*. The roadmap contains an unprecedented government-wide investment of \$1.1 billion over five years to encourage linguistic duality among Canadians and offers support to official-language minority communities.

24 June
Federal Politics
Airport Screening
Kelowna

The federal government launches a pilot-project in Kelowna with new airport screening technology that would see through a person's clothes to detect hidden objects. The launch, supported by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority, is heavily criticized by federal Privacy Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart, who stated that body-scanning technology violates Canadian privacy standards.

*Student Loan
and Grant Program*

billion in funding over the next four years. Ottawa promised the changes in the 2008 federal budget. The major reform is a new Canada Student Grant program where students from low-income families can receive a cheque for \$250 per month of their program's duration while students from middle-income families are eligible for \$100 each month they are enrolled in their program. Students who qualify for the Canada Student Loan Program and are studying in university, college or trade schools are automatically eligible for the grant, and can receive it throughout the duration of their programs.

*04 September
Federal Politics
Defecting Contraband
Tobacco products*

The Honourable Gordon O'Connor, Minister of National Revenue, unveils a new state-of-the-art tool to target the market of contraband and counterfeit tobacco in Canada. The Tobacco Compliance Strategy and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) produced a new excise duty stamp for tobacco products that contains a number of overt and covert security features, much like those found on Canadian currency. Once fully implemented, the detection tool will allow authorities to more easily identify legitimate tobacco products and detect counterfeit or contraband products.

*07 September
Federal Politics
Dissolving Parliament*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper asks Governor General Michaëlle Jean to dissolve Parliament, setting the stage for an October 14 federal election. The move ended 31 months of Conservative minority rule and will send Canadians to the polls for the third time in just over four years.

Voter turnout was 59 percent, the lowe

corporations. To read or watch the speech in full, please see
<http://www.sft-ddt.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=1383>

27 November
Federal Politics
Liberal-NDP coalition

Opposition parties claim they have lost confidence in the government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper after the November 27 economic update when Finance Minister Jim Flaherty failed to provide a stimulus package. The Liberals soon enter into negotia

08 December
Federal Politics
Liberal Party of Canada
Stéphane Dion resigns

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion announces he will immediately step down as leader, changing his plans to hold onto the leadership until a spring convention. The party wants a new leader in place before the House of Commons returns at the end of January for a federal budget and a critical confidence vote. Dion was to step down after a May 2 leadership vote, but Liberals opt to install a new leader in place before a vote on the federal budget January 27 that could plunge the country into another election or replace the Conservatives with a coalition government. Michael Ignatieff and Bob Rae emerge as the frontrunners.

10 December
Federal Politics
Liberal Party of Canada
Michael Ignatieff
New Leader

Michael Ignatieff is named leader of the Liberal Party and Her Majesty's Official Opposition following a vote of the party's national executive, a day after leadership opponent Bob Rae withdrew from the race. Liberal Senators and MPs vote unanimously at a national caucus meeting later in the day. Ignatieff replaces Stéphane Dion as Opposition and party leader.

24 December
Federal Politics
Ontario Court of
Appeal ruling

It will be easier to sue the federal government as a result of an Ontario Court of Appeal ruling that rejected what it described as a Dickensian series of obstacles that the federal Crown was trying to uphold. A lawsuit seeking financial damages against the federal government or one of its agencies may generally be launched in the Superior Court of any province, rather than in the Federal Court of Canada, the appeal court decided in a ruling issued on Christmas Eve. The Court of Appeal decision followed a consolidated hearing earlier this year stemming from four unrelated lawsuits -- three involving companies suing the federal government and one filed by one of the country's most notorious bank robbers.

Health

11 August
Health
Organ donation

The federal and provincial governments agree to spend \$35 million to set up a national organ-donation system run by Canadian Blood Services. The agreement covers all the provinces and territories except Quebec. More than 4,000 Canadians are on waiting lists for organ transplants and last year, 193 patients died while waiting for transplants. Graham Sher, chief executive of Canadian Blood Services, said the formal agreement means there can be national action on organ donation, rather than just study and advice. Canadian Blood Services plans to start its new role by building three new national databases to try to save more lives. One registry will be for the most urgent transplant cases. A second registry will be for kidney patients whose medical condition is such that only a small number of donated kidneys are a match. A third registry will be for paired exchanges. Finally, the national agency is to tackle the

question of how to handle donations from people who die unexpectedly, a question that is managed differently from province to province.

19 November
Health
Vancouver
Blusson Spinal
Cord Centre

The \$45 million Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, the world's largest facility for spinal cord injury care and research, opens at the Vancouver General Hospital campus. Spinal surgeon Dr. Marcel Dvorak says the centre will get up to 16,000 patient visits a year and one-stop health care means those with paralysis will no longer have to see doctors and other health providers at multiple locations throughout the province. Federal partners

Program

Minister to use the \$54 billion

17 March
*Intergovernmental
Relations
Canada-Yukon
Infrastructure*

The governments of Canada and Yukon announce the signing of a Framework Agreement under Building Canada, a new long-term infrastructure plan. The framework, worth \$242.9 million, will structure new investments into the territory to address future public infrastructure needs and priorities.

17 March
*Intergovernmental
Relations
Canada-B.C. Gas Tax
Fund*

The Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities sign an agreement that will see communities across the province receive more than \$1 billion between 2010 and 2014 from the Gas Tax Fund. The deal makes B.C. the first province to sign an extension of the Gas Tax Agreement.

18 March
*Intergovernmental
Relations
Canada-Alberta
Homelessness
Partnering Strategy*

Conservative MP Laurie Hawn announces that the federal government will invest \$25 million in new housing projects in Alberta under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

18 March
*Intergovernmental
Relations
Canada-N.S.
Police Officers
Recruitment Fund*

Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day announces the federal government will provide Nova Scotia with \$11.2 million as part of its new Police Officers Recruitment Fund.

19 March
*Intergovernmental
Relations
Canada-Quebec
Police Officers
Recruitment Fund*

Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day announces that the Government of Canada will provide Quebec with \$92.3 million as part of its Police Officers Recruitment Fund.

25 March
Intergovernmental

Conservative MP Diane Ablonczy reveals that the Government of Canada will provide Alberta with \$42.4 million as part of its Police Officers Recruitment Fund.

*Canada-Alberta
Police Officers
Recruitment Fund*

*Intergovernmental
Relations
Canada-N.B. public
Transit*

investments to improve public transit in Nova Scotia.

28 March

*Intergovernmental
Relations
Canada-B.C.
Homelessness Partnering
Strategy*

government will provide British Columbia with approximately \$20.6 million in new funding to combat homelessness under the government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

14 April

Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Chuck Strahl announces that the

<p><i>Relations</i> <i>Canada, PEI</i> <i>Building Canada</i></p>	<p>Canada, the federal government's long-term infrastructure plan. The Plan will help address infrastructure needs and priorities in the province until 2014.</p>
<p>27 May <i>Intergovernmental</i> <i>Relations</i> <i>Security</i></p>	<p>Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's plans for a single national securities regulator experience a setback before the annual meeting of provincial and territorial leaders. Quebec, British Columbia, Manitoba and other provinces announce that they will continue with their plans to entrench a system that commits various jurisdictions to recognize the decisions of each other's securities regulators.</p>
<p>30 May <i>Intergovernmental</i> <i>Relations</i> <i>Canadian Western</i> <i>Premiers Conference</i></p>	<p>The Canadian Western Premiers Conference in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan ends with a pledge to lobby Ottawa for better infrastructure in order to promote economic growth in the north. The western premiers promised to press the federal government for an extension of the Mackenzie Valley Highway that would provide a year-round link to communities in the Northwest Territories whose only surface access by car is on winter ice roads. They also called for improvements to and reconstruction of the entire highway network in the Yukon. In Nunavut, they urged greater investment in seven Arctic ports, which could provide an economic boom as the melting Northwest Passage opens up new shipping routes.</p>
<p>02 June <i>Intergovernmental</i> <i>Relations</i> <i>Ontario, Quebec</i> <i>Joint cabinet meeting</i></p>	<p>In an unprecedented move, Ontario and Quebec hold a joint cabinet meeting to discuss a range of issues including the environment, economic integration, and social policy. The meetings end with the announcement of an agreement that calls on the two provinces to set up a joint system for trading greenhouse gas emissions credits by 2010. The agreement means that both Quebec and Ontario will officially reject the federal Conservative government's less rigorous greenhouse gas reduction plan unveiled last year.</p>
<p>08 June <i>Intergovernmental</i> <i>Relations</i> <i>Canada, B.C.</i> <i>Student loan program</i></p>	<p>The federal government and the government of British Columbia announce a joint partnership to help students acquire loans. The two governments sign a Memorandum of Understanding that will work towards establishing a federal-provincial partnership to make it easier for students to manage their student loans in the province.</p>
<p>13 June <i>Intergovernmental</i> <i>Relations</i> <i>Canada, N.S.</i> <i>Labour Market</i> <i>Agreement</i></p>	<p>Minister of Human Resources Monte Solberg and Nova Scotia Minister of Labour, Mark Parent, sign two new federal-provincial agreements to aid low-skilled and unemployed workers enter into the workforce. The Labour Market Agreements will inject \$85 million over the next six years into the labour market to help Nova Scotian workers upgrade their skills.</p>
<p>13 June</p>	<p>Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Diane Finley announces a new</p>

*Intergovernmental
Relations
Canada, PEI
Immigration*

Agreement for Canada-Prince Edward Island Cooperation on Immigration. The new agreement will make it easier for the province to attract skilled international workers, process applications more quickly, and strengthen the province's Francophone community.

19 June
*Intergovernmental
Relations
Canada, NWT*

The governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories sign a Provincial-Territorial (PT) Base Funding Agreement under the Building Canada infrastructure plan. The signing of the PT Base Funding Agreement provides federal funding to

16 July
*Intergovernmental
Relations*
Canada, B.C.
Ocean sciences funding

The governments of Canada and British Columbia are working in partnership to strengthen the ocean sciences sector through an investment in the planning and development of a national scale ocean technology park on Vancouver Island. Federal funding of \$135,000 is provided by (Ed) Fast, Member of Parliament for Abbotsford, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification. MLA Ida Chong, Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development and Minister Responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative, announces a matching contribution of \$135,000 in provincial funding toward the initiative.

24 July
*Intergovernmental
Relations*
Canada, Ontario
"Building Canada"
Intergovernmental

The federal government signs a deal with Ontario to spend \$7.8 billion in the province on public transit, roads and bridges as part of its plan to maintain and expand the country's infrastructure systems. Ottawa's infrastructure plan, called Building Canada, will see the Harper government spend \$33 billion over seven years on infrastructure projects across the country. Ontario becomes

Cannon conceded the effect of his proposed framework creates precisely such a landscape, and emphasized the intention is to turn it into a pan-Canadian policy.

31 July
Intergovernmental

The Honourable Gordon O'Connor, Minister of National Revenue, announces that the federal and all provincial governments have entered

*Nova Scotia
Funding for the arts*

sector. They also say the federal cuts will have a negative impact on such growth, along with cultural exports. The province says the culture sector creates direct and indirect employment for 28,000 people and generates more than \$1.2 billion in gross domestic product.

*03 September
Intergovernmental
Relations
Manitoba
Canada-Manitoba
Agreement on French
Language Services*

Rod Bruinooge, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians and Member of Parliament (Winnipeg South), on behalf of the Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women and Minister for La Francophonie, and the Honourable James Moore, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific Gateway) (2010 Olympics) (Official Languages), announce funding while taking part in the ground-

*Intergovernmental
Relations
Education
“Imagine”*

Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, highlights Canada's contribution to a new campaign aimed at promoting the country's post-secondary education systems and institutions overseas as a distinct and recognizable international "brand." The new campaign, called *Imagine*, is part of the federal-provincial Education in Canada program. The campaign conveys the message that a Canadian education opens the door to a world of opportunities and encourages students from around the world to discover the many advantages of going to school in Canada. Provincial and territorial ministers announced their involvement in the development of the international brand in Fredericton last September during the biannual meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC).

24 November
*Intergovernmental
Relations
Child Poverty*

According to the 2008 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada, the child poverty rate in Saskatchewan is the second highest in the country, following only British Columbia. It would be even higher if the report included children in First Nations communities, where it is estimated one in four lives in poverty. In 1989, when the federal government resolved to end child poverty by 2000, the child poverty rate was 15.1 percent in Canada and 21.7 percent in Saskatchewan. Seventeen years later, in 2006, the national child poverty rate had increased slightly to 15.8 percent, while the provincial rate showed a small decline to 19.9 percent.

*Intergovernmental
Relations
Federal Government
British Columbia
Unemployment
Homelessness*

the South Fraser region re-enter the work force and break free from the cycle of homelessness. Ms. Dona Cadman, Member of Parliament for Surrey North, made the announcement on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development. The Newton Advocacy Group Society will receive \$1.17 million in funding for its Project Comeback under the Government of Canada's Employment Assistance Services (EAS) program. The project is a continuous intake program that will provide counseling, consulting and job-search services to 210 unemployed and homeless participants from the South Fraser region, enabling them to acquire full-time sustainable employment and helping them to permanently break free from the cycle of homelessness.

19 December
*Intergovernmental
Relations
Federal Government
Alberta
Funding*

Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and Regional Minister for southern Alberta, on behalf of Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, announces the federal funding of \$4 million towards a new state-of-the-art applied research centre at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT Polytechnic). The funding 6 Tm0c

31 March

Minister of International Trade David Emerson meets with provincial

24 November
Labour Relations
Federal Government

The federal government and its largest union reach an agreement on a new contract, averting a major confrontation and setting the stage for similar deals across the public service

02 May
Municipalities
Trois Rivières
Federal-provincial
funding

Federal Minister of Transport Lawrence Cannon and Quebec Deputy Premier Nathalie Normandeau announce that the City of Trois-Rivières will receive \$13.5 million in joint federal-provincial funding to support cultural, economic and tourism development in the city.

05 May
Municipalities
Federal Gas Tax

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty reveals that the federal government will permanently extend federal gas tax funding to municipalities throughout Canada. Revenues from the Gas Tax Fund will reach \$2 billion a year nationally by 2009-2010.

02 June
Municipalities
FMC annual meeting

At the 71st Annual Conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Minister of Transport Lawrence Cannon announces that municipalities in Quebec will receive federal funding to support environmentally sustainable infrastructure. The new funding will be drawn primarily from the Gas Tax Fund. It will mean an additional \$62 million for the Outaouais Region and an additional \$291 million for the Montreal Region.

07 July

During the next six years, the federal and provincial governments will ~~TT2T67 11n10cT2~~

thousands of ecotourists arrive in late October and early November to view polar bears, has requested Ottawa give it temporary food mail status.

27 November
Municipalities
City of Saskatoon

The City of Saskatoon's record \$241.7 million capital budget for 2009 will start paying for future mega-projects such as the south bridge and new police station while trying to keep pace with regular maintenance of streets and bridges. Without new, non-designated federal and provincial funding for no-frills work such as fixing water lines and repaving streets, the city forecasts a backlog of \$195 million worth of projects in the next five years. Senior government funding typically goes toward new projects.

Provincial Politics

14 January
Provincial Politics
B.C.
Public transit system

The Government of British Columbia announces that it will invest \$14 billion in new public transit systems for the province. The new funding will aid in the construction of a new automated SkyTrain transit into the University of British Columbia, plant a new light-rail system in the northeastern suburbs of the Lower Mainland and lead to dedicated bus lines in Vancouver, Victoria and Kelowna.

23 January
Provincial Politics
B.C. Auditor General

Provincial Auditor General of British Columbia John Doyle issues a report stating that the province's effort to reduce deaths and injuries amongst forestry works has failed. Doyle says workers continue to die in this dangerous sector - 13 in 2006 alone. Another 73 forestry workers were seriously injured on the job that year.

04 February
Provincial Politics
Alberta election

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach dissolves the provincial legislature and calls an election within the province, set for March 3, 2008.

04 February
Provincial Politics
Alberta election
Health

Shortly after calling an election, Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach unveils plans to eliminate Alberta's controversial health-care premiums that cost an average family \$1,056 a year and bring over \$1 billion annually for the province.

03 March
Provincial Politics
Alberta election

Albertans go to the polls, re-electing Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach's Progressive Conservative party with one of its largest majorities ever. The election results also give the Progressives a historic and unprecedented 11th consecutive majority government in the province.

30 May
Provincial Politics
Ontario
Private school

The Government of Ontario announces that it will no longer fund private schools for French-language instruction. The funding change, effective September, restricts funding for private high schools that spend one-quarter of their class time teaching in French. Elementary schools will no

<i>End of funding</i>	longer be eligible for funding.
04 June <i>Provincial Politics</i> <i>Air quality</i>	The government of British Columbia unveils a \$28.5 million plan to improve air quality in the province. The new funding, spread out over three years, will create incentives for consumers to buy new fuel-efficient vehicles, offer tax incentives to public transit users, and force all diesel-run government vehicles to switch to bio-fuels.
11 June <i>Provincial Politics</i> <i>Nova Scotia</i> <i>Auditor General</i> <i>Report</i>	Nova Scotia's Auditor-General Jacques Lapointe criticizes a controversial immigration program in the province that admits immigrants willing to pay for job placements. Under the scheme, newcomers paid \$130,500 each to be fast-tracked through the immigration process.
13 June <i>Provincial Politics</i> <i>Ontario NDP leader</i> <i>Resigns</i>	Ontario New Democratic Party Leader Howard Hampton announces that he will not be seeking re-election as leader at the party's next convention in March, 2009. Hampton will, however, stay on as the MLA for Kenora-Rainy River until at least the next Ontario election in 2011.
16 June <i>Provincial Politics</i> <i>Ontario</i> <i>Smoking ban</i>	Ontario becomes the latest province to ban smoking in a vehicle with a child present. The private member's bill passed with the support of all three provincial parties. Nova Scotia and British Columbia already have similar legislation in place, while Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick are currently considering a ban.
27 June <i>Provincial Politics</i>	Alberta Liberal leader Kevin Taft announces that he will step down in the next seven months after his party's

<p>08 August <i>Provincial Politics</i> <i>Saskatchewan</i> <i>Immigration</i></p>	<p>Parliamentary Secretary Ed Kormarnicki announces that the Regina Open Door Society will receive \$1.4 million in funding from the federal government during the next year. Three other immigrant-serving organizations will also be receiving funds as part of a nearly \$2 million package. Rob Norris, provincial minister responsible for Immigration and Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, said there are approximately 10,000 jobs currently available in Saskatchewan and welcoming more skilled immigrants will go a long way to help fill the shortage of skilled workers.</p>
<p>21 August <i>Provincial Politics</i> <i>Newfoundland and Labrador</i> <i>Offshore oil</i></p>	<p>Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams hails a landmark \$5.8 billion agreement with a consortium of oil companies to develop the Hebron offshore oilfield as the start of a new era of cooperation with the industry. Officials from Chevron Canada and its partners joined Williams at the official signing ceremony in St. John's, N.L. In addition to Chevron Canada, project participants include ExxonMobil Canada, Petro-Canada, and StatoilHydro Canada. The deal, coming after more than two years of negotiations, gives the province a 4.9 percent stake in the oilfield for an upfront cost of \$110 million and a percentage of future development costs.</p>
<p>02 September <i>Provincial Politics</i> <i>Quebec</i> <i>Gun control</i></p>	<p>Quebec's new gun-control legislation, Bill 9, comes into force. The legislation is known as Anastasia's law in memory of Anastasia De Sousa, 18, who was killed during the September, 2006, Dawson College shooting.</p>
<p>18 September <i>Provincial Politics</i> <i>Ontario</i> <i>Cabinet shuffle</i></p>	<p>Dalton McGuinty shuffles his cabinet in a move the Ontario premier said was designed to help attract investment and jobs during a slowing economy. McGuinty named Sandra Pupatello to the newly created Ministry of International Trade and Investment. The new ministry will focus globally to attract investments to Ontario.</p>
<p>01 October <i>Provincial Politics</i></p>	<p>British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell announces that two by-elections would be held on October 29. The by-election in Vancouver-Burrard saw the NDP's Spencer Herbert win the riding following the resignation of the Liberal incumbent, while the NDP also held onto the Vancouver-Fairview riding.</p>
<p>04 November</p>	<p>Ontario officially becomes a "have-not" province, qualifying for \$347</p>

Arctic waters

maintained by the coast guard to monitor Arctic traffic. The report also recommends the purchase of new icebreakers and echoes a \$720 million promise made in the Conservative government's last budget.

26 June

Supreme Court

- 11 April
Supreme Court
N.B. linguistic duality
- The Supreme Court of Canada rules that the RCMP must serve all of New Brunswick in both English and French in order to meet the province's bilingual requirements.
- 21 May
Supreme Court
Quebec demands
Bilingual appointments
- The Quebec National Assembly votes unanimously to demand that the federal government only appoint bilingual judges to the Supreme Court of Canada. Premier Jean Charest insisted that the motion calling on Supreme Court judges to master the French language as an essential condition of their appointment was not just a simple request but a firm demand expressed by all members of the National Assembly.
- 23 May
Supreme Court
Khadr ruling
- In a landmark ruling, the Canadian Supreme Court orders the Canadian government to hand over confidential interrogation documents to Omar Khadr's defense team. Khadr is on trial in the United States for his alleged involvement in the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan. In giving its ruling, the Supreme Court stated that the rights granted to Canadian citizens under the Charter apply even when they are not in the country.
- 27 May
Supreme Court (B.C.)
Ruling
Safe Injection Site
- The British Columbia Supreme Court rules that North America's only sanctioned safe-injection site for drug addicts should remain open. Justice Ian Pitfield of the B.C. Supreme Court granted users and staff at the popular but controversial facility, known as Insite, a permanent constitutional exemption from prosecution under federal drug laws. In doing so, Justice Pitfield also declared that sections of Canada's drug laws against possession and trafficking in illegal narcotics were unconstitutional. The government has until the end of June next year to redraft them in accordance with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Federal Health Minister Tony Clement indicates that the government will appeal the decision.
- 23 June
Supreme Court (Quebec)
Assisted Human
Reproduction Act
- The Quebec Court of Appeal issues a decision that leaves important aspects of human reproductive technology unregulated. In its ruling the court struck down important sections of the federal government's *Assisted Human Reproduction Act* because they related to health issues. Health falls under the constitutional jurisdiction of the provinces. The federal government's Act, therefore, was found to be unconstitutional as the federal government acted outside its jurisdiction.