

# COMMUNICATIONS EXPRESS

December 1985

## Christmas message from the Minister



The festive season has rolled around once again, giving me the opportunity to wish all of you, and your families, a most joyous Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

This holiday season, in addition to affording a break in our work schedules to be with our families and to celebrate, also represents a transition from one year to another. This presents an opportune time for reflection on the events and achievements of the year completed and the challenges to be taken up in the new one about to start.

This past year has been a very busy one for the department – sometimes difficult, sometimes trying, sometimes frustrating; but most often satisfying and rewarding, thanks in large measure to the devotion, co-operation, efficiency and fine work by all employees, both in Headquarters and the Regions.

I am confident that I speak for all senior officials of the department when I express my gratitude and thanks for your efforts and support. With a continuation of this kind of co-operation, we can anticipate a most fruitful year to come.

Season's greetings to everyone!

## ... and from the Deputy Minister

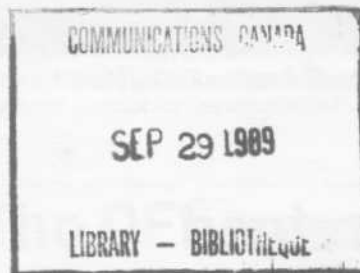


Christmas is a very special time of year: a time for family, a time for personal spiritual renewal, and a time for giving, among other things.

In this light, I am very pleased to wish each and every member of the DOC "family" a most happy Christmas. You have given me, in my capacity as DM (and SADM earlier in the year), a year of unswerving loyalty, dedication and a fine work effort that have taken us successfully – if not completely unscathed – through the challenges we faced in the communications and culture arena. Needless to say, your gift also greatly benefits the department and all Canadians.

My gift to you is somewhat more difficult to define and, in fact, includes all other senior officials of the department in its expression. It is recognition of and pride in your contributions, a willingness to listen to your views and suggestions and an attempt to assimilate them in DOC's policies and programs, and a determination to work in close harmony with all of you for maximum common benefit. It is also a New Year's resolution to continue in this vein during 1986.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and my heartfelt thanks to all DOC employees.



## Brasilsat training starts

Over the next four years, some 15 employees of Brazil's Space Research Institute and 25 from the Research and Development Laboratory of Telebras (Brazil's telephone carrier) will take part in a DOC project providing training in space and telecommunications technology. The project stems from the awarding of a contract to Spar Aerospace Limited as prime contractor for Brazil's domestic telecommunications satellite system, Brasilsat.

In September, the first of these Brazilian employees arrived in Ottawa to begin their orientation and training at CRC. Under the terms of the project, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) is providing the travel and living expenses for the trainees.

A warm DOC welcome to our colleagues from Brazil.



From the left: Sharon Auger, Wil Threinen and Janet Watson discuss training plans with José Mendes and José Malavazi of Telebras.

## More supervisors trained

Supervisors from the Pacific, Central and Ontario regions recently participated in the "Orientation Course for Supervisors" held at Banff, Alberta. The two-week program was the seventh of these courses presented by DOC's Human Resources

Branch, with the aim of improving management skills for employees with supervisory duties. To date, 120 have participated in this program, with the next course to take place in Cornwall in February 1986.



Banff participants, left to right: Art Edge, Ken Staley, Darlene Lentle, Dean Suggett, Gerry Loewen, Pritam Aulakh, Steve Mori, Doug Slomke, Brian Johnstone, Louise Pujo, John Nosotti, Yves Brunet (course director), Frank Mailhot, Dave Sinclair, Harley Rea, Hilda Warkentin, Merrill Moore, Brad Thompson, P.S. Verma, Harold Wiest, Jenne Looper, Rolf Ziemann.

## ADMs change

### ... in Cultural Affairs

The Cultural Affairs Sector recently bid a fond farewell to **David Silcox**, its Assistant Deputy Minister for the past two and a half years. Mr. Silcox has left the Public Service to resume a private-sector career in arts administration and writing in Toronto.



Jeremy Kinsman

The department also extended a hearty welcome to **Jeremy Kinsman**, who became ADMAC (actually, Assistant Deputy Minister, Cultural Affairs and Broadcasting Services) October 1. A native of Montreal, Mr. Kinsman comes to DOC after four years at the Canadian Embassy in Washington as Minister for Political Affairs. After joining the Government of Canada as a foreign-service officer in 1966, he served in Canada's Mission to the United Nations in New York, was named Minister and Deputy Permanent U.N. Representative in 1979, then returned to Ottawa as chairman of the Policy Planning Secretariat of External Affairs in 1980-81, prior to his Washington assignment.

### ... and in Corporate Policy

In August, **Richard Stursberg** was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Policy, on an interim basis, following **Alain Gourd's** appointment as the department's Deputy Minister. Mr. Stursberg was formerly Director General, Strategy and Plans.



Richard Stursberg

# CWARC opens as International Symposium ends

On November 5, coinciding with the wind up of an international symposium on The Impact of New Information Technologies on the Workplace, the Canadian Workplace Automation Research Centre (CWARC) in Laval was officially opened. Deputy Minister **Alain Gourd** presided at an inaugural ceremony attended by some 280 invited guests.

The role of the Research Centre is to collaborate with the private sector, educational institutions and governments in establishing a research and development program on the technological, social, economic and behavioural aspects of workplace automation. Some of its principal aims will be to assist users in identifying needs, establish the expertise needed to make Canada competitive in world markets, and develop a network for the rapid exchange and transfer of research information.

CWARC will concentrate its research efforts primarily on integrated systems, advanced informatics technologies, organizational and social research, and the use and dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Directed by **Jacques Lyrette**, the Centre currently has a staff of 50, and this is expected to double by 1987. Through an exchange program, half of CWARC's scientific personnel will be recruited from the public and private sectors and the universities.

Relevant to the work of the Centre, the Department of Communications and the Institute for Research on Public Policy sponsored the symposium on the Impact of New Information Technologies on the Workplace. Held at Montreal's Four Seasons Hotel from November 3 to 5, it dealt with all aspects of office automation. Some 125 participants heard well-known international experts discuss topics such as trends in the marketplace and in the uses for technology; the wave of change in the information industries; the transformation in the organization of the workplace; public policy implications; implications for research policy; and informatics, health and the Third World. All proceedings of the symposium were filmed, with a view to producing a documentary on workplace automation.

Press kits distributed at the CWARC opening, major documents presented at the symposium, and videocassettes of the principal speeches and presentations from the symposium are available on request from DGIS.



DM cuts the ribbon at CWARC'S opening ceremony. Left to right: Jacques Lyrette, Director General of CWARC; Gilles Vaillancourt, President of the Executive Council of Laval; Alain Gourd, DM of DOC; Guy Ricard, Member of Parliament for Laval; Guy Wolfe, Quebec Regional Director for Department of Public Works.

## The DFL expands

On September 25, the Minister officially opened the new "High Bay" satellite-testing chamber at the David Florida Laboratory (DFL), part of the department's Communications Research Centre. Attendees at the inaugural ceremony included the High Commissioner of Nigeria; representatives from the Embassies of Australia, France and Italy; members of the Interdepartmental Committee on Space; the Canadian astronaut team; representatives of Canadian aerospace companies; and senior DOC officials.

The new High Bay is about 30m by 40m in size, with a ceiling height of approximately 18m, and has a specially constructed floor eight times as strong as those in earlier bays. The new serving crane can lift heavy equipment as high as 16 meters; and special air cushions attached to the corners of DFL dollies to operate on the hovercraft principle allow two people to manoeuvre objects weighing over 4,500 kg!

Since even a speck of dust in the delicate equipment of a satellite could cause a malfunction in space, the new High Bay is maintained as a "clean room," with filtered air and controlled temperature and humidity. Two viewing galleries allow visitors to

see the facilities without disturbing work in progress or affecting the environment.

The Laboratory's new High Bay more than doubles the space available to governments and industry for the assembly and testing of spacecraft, their components and associated high-technology products. Because of these extensive state-of-the-art facilities and expert personnel all in one location, the European Space Agency chose the DFL for the major testing now being performed on the Olympus 1 satellite, making Canada the only non-European participant in that program.

The DFL, one of a handful of comparable facilities in the world, provides invaluable service to Canada's thriving space and telecommunications industries and is increasingly important to the international aerospace community. Whether testing microwave receivers, terrestrial systems, the famous remote manipulator system (Canadarm) developed for the United States' Space Shuttle, the Anik or Brasilsat satellites providing telecommunications services for Canada and Brazil, Olympus 1 or future large satellites, the DFL's facilities meet the exacting standards of the international marketplace.

# Comings and goings

## Headquarters

There have recently been many changes at the director general level in the department. In Spectrum Management, **Bob Jones** became Director General of the Radio Regulatory Branch, **Ron Begley** was named DG of the Broadcasting Regulations Branch, and **Nisar Ahmed** is now DG of the Engineering Programs Branch (DGEP).

**Lynn MacDonald** moves from her position as DG, Cultural Policy and Programs in the ADMAC Sector to become DG, Strategy and Plans in ADMCP; **Charles McGee** replaces Lynn as DGAC on an interim basis, moving from his position as DG, Federal-Provincial Relations; and **Paul Racine**, DG in Information Services, takes on the duties of DGFP on an interim basis, while retaining responsibility as DGIS at this time.

**Colin Franklin**, who was DG, Applications Programs in the ADMTI Sector, has left the department to join the Ministry of State for Science and Technology as a consultant. He was given a fond farewell at the Nepean Sportsplex in September by some 117 friends and co-workers, including senior officials of DOC, Spar Aerospace, Telesat Canada and other public- and private-sector organizations.

On October 21, friends and co-workers gathered to wish **Guido Henter** well in his new position, and to present him with various gifts in honour of the occasion. Guido, who joined DOC in 1972, and has been DG, Government Telecommunications since 1980, has left to become Executive Director, Telecommunications with the CRTC. **Micheline Desjardins-Chase** replaces Guido as DGGT, on an interim basis, moving from the position she held as Director, Industrial Development in DGIE.

In International Relations, the wheel turned full circle as **Gaby Warren** returned as DG, following a 3-year secondment to External Affairs as DG, Multilateral Affairs responsible for United Nations and Commonwealth Affairs. He replaces **Bill Montgomery**, who came to DOC to replace him and has been DGIR for the past three years. Bill now leaves DOC to return to External Affairs as DG, East Asia Bureau.

There were other changes in DGIR.

**John Gilbert**, Deputy Director General, leaves the branch to take up the challenge as Central Regional Director in Winnipeg, replacing **Bill Johnston**, who retires in January 1986. **Pierre Gagné** won a competition to become an International Arrangements Officer, and **Jean-Marc Chouinard** became an International/Bilateral Arrangements Officer, moving from the International Development section.

**Keith Chang**, who was Manager, Telidon Systems Applications in DGAP, became Director, Industrial Development in DGIE, replacing **Micheline Desjardins-Chase**.

Changes in the Corporate Policy Sector, as **Suzanne Baldwin** became Acting Director of Planning and Co-ordination, replacing **Jean Bélanger**, who accepted the position of Acting Director in the Resource Management Division of the Finance, Personnel and Administration Sector. Suzanne was previously senior advisor for long-term planning in the Spectrum Management Sector.

DOC's Director of Network Development, **R.M. (Bob) Bennett**, retired after a 40-year career in the Public Service. A native of Windsor, Bob began his career as an Air Force signals officer, joined the Department of Transport (DOT) in 1957 to work on navigational-aid engineering, went to External Affairs on a CAP assignment in 1969-70; then worked for DOT again, in air-traffic control administration, as regional manager for telecommunications in Edmonton, and in their Telecommunications Policy Bureau in Ottawa. After joining DOC in 1975 he placed emphasis on standardization in telecommunications systems. At a farewell gathering on October 4, Bob indicated that his retirement endeavors



Guido Henter (left), his wife Juliana, and Ken Hepburn (ADMTI) at farewell gathering for Mr. Henter.



DM Alain Gourd makes presentation to Bill Montgomery (above) and John Gilbert (below) in ceremony in the Briefing Centre.

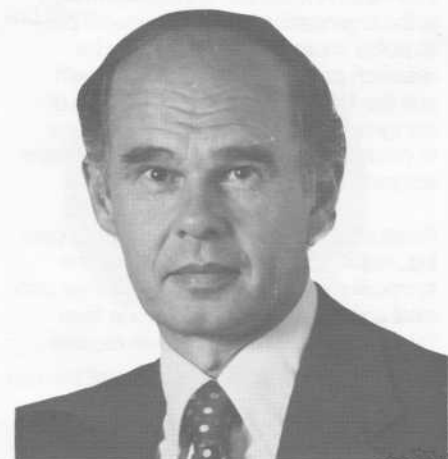


## Chivalry still recognized

On May 11, 1985, **Stanley Dzuba**, Pacific Region Broadcasting Engineer, was honoured for outstanding service to his country and community by being invested as an Officer in the Military Order of St. Lazarus.

Mr. Dzuba has spent many years in the military and recently held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, as Commanding Officer of a Vancouver Militia Regiment. He also is a current member of the British Columbia Parole Board.

Congratulations Stanley.





Bob Bennett (right), his wife Marion, and Ken Hepburn are all smiles at Mr. Bennett's retirement gathering.



Nisar Ahmed (DGEP) makes presentation to Raymonde Joseph at her retirement gathering.



Jean-Marc Pellerin, Atlantic Regional Director, presents gift to Réal Valiquette at his retirement ceremony.

would likely include some consulting work, some university courses and the development of his family trees.

In DGIS, **Denise Perrier**, following competition, was confirmed as Chief, Editorial Services and Liaison. Also, **Sandi McDonald**, senior officer in Exhibits and Audio-Visual Services, left to become an officer with the Europe, Africa and Middle East section of DMS.

In DGAC, **Gaston Blais** became Chief, Arts Policy; **Barbara Helm** was named a Senior Policy Analyst; **Carl McMullin** became Manager of the Canadian Film and Videotape Certification Office; **Shirley MacKenzie** moved from administrative assistant in Cultural Policy and Programs to Co-ordinator, Operational Services in the Planning Division; **Carole Lafrenière-Noel** joined the Heritage Policy Division as a support analyst, moving from DGIS, where she was a writer-editor of ministerial correspondence; **Pierrette Houle** is now a film and video planning officer, **Raymonde Smith** a program officer, and **Sergio Guerbilsky** and **Joanne Duval** project officers.

There were also a number of retirements: in ADMSM, **Roger Beaudry**, Chief, Broadcast Engineering Planning; in ADMTI, **Sam Altman**, Director, Space Mechanics and **E.A. Walker**, Director, Radio Systems Research and Development; in DGEP, **Raymonde Joseph**, after 32 years of public service.

#### Atlantic Region

Deputy Regional Director **Réal Valiquette** retired in October after a Public Service career of more than 40 years that took him to Vancouver, Mont-Joli, Dore Lake, Sept-Îles, Fort McKenzie, Trois-Rivières, Dorval, Montreal and Moncton. A native of Montreal, he joined the Government of Canada in 1943 as a radio operator with DOT, eventually becoming an Inspector, Radio

Regulations. **Réal** joined DOC as Regional Manager of Operations in Moncton, and became the region's Deputy Director in 1981. He has been replaced by **Pierre Boudreau**, who was Manager, MSAT Program Definition at Headquarters in Ottawa.

#### Quebec Region

**Léo Daigle**, Chief of Operations and Deputy Regional Director, retired in October after 33 years of service. He has been succeeded by **François Draper**, who previously was Manager of Planning and the Working Group for the MSAT Program at Headquarters.

In September, **Marielle Hébert** was named Director of Administrative, Financial and Personnel Services at the Canadian Workplace Automation Research Centre for two years, under CAP. Formerly, she was Chief, Financial Administration at the National Film Board.

#### Ontario Region

**Adele Ryan** is Personnel Assistant, coming to DOC after experience with the Departments of Transport, Supply and Services, and Health and Welfare. **Shirley Sit** becomes Junior Engineer, Radio-frequency Systems, having been with the Institute of Biomedical Engineering and the Ontario Ministry of Transport and Communications.

#### Central Region

**Stan Davis**, Winnipeg District Office Manager, retired after 30 years' service, and **Jack Webb**, Radio Inspector, Winnipeg Regional Office, retired after 24 years. **Jan Skora** became Deputy Regional Director in September, leaving his position as Director General in Winnipeg for the CRTC. **Howard Smith** was appointed Regional Manager, GTA for 18 months, as a CAP assignment. **Ray Flatt** moved from Saskatchewan District Manager to District Manager in Edmonton. **Jean Makeiff** was appointed Regional Chief, Information Systems; she had been a systems programmer for the region.

#### Pacific Region

**Audrey Woodrow** has left her job as District Office Regulatory Supervisory Clerk to take a private-sector position. **Susan Negraeve** joined the department as a data processor in the regional office. In the Vancouver District Office, **Ron Gloux**, **Bruce Weston** and **Brad Thompson** became EL-5s (Electronic Technicians).

## Ted Grusec wins award

Congratulations to **Ted Grusec**, Associate Director, Office Communications Systems, who recently won the Institute of General Management's "Gold Medallion" Award for his article, "Office Automation in Government: Productivity and Other Myths."

In his article, Dr. Grusec discusses the potential for increased productivity due to office automation, dealing with such criteria as efficiency and effectiveness, quality of working life and service to clients. However, he also examines the factors that create a risk of decreased productivity: misunderstandings, distortions and other

negative results that can occur when critical changes are made.

The award won by Dr. Grusec has actually not yet been given a name. It is a new annual award program initiated in 1985 by the Institute of General Management, with a prize of a maple leaf gold coin for the best article related to practical program-oriented management issues in the public sector. The winning submission each year will be published in the management journal *Optimum*; we'll look forward to reading Dr. Grusec's article in the January issue.

Well done, Ted.

# United Way and Fun Run successful

Kudos once again to DOC employees for their magnificent response to the United Way appeal in the National Capital Region! With our departmental target set at \$60,750 and contributions now exceeding \$68,000 (and perhaps a bit more still to come), it appears we have reached at least **112 per cent** of target. Also, the average contribution is \$69 – a very fine effort.

This habitually excellent response by the department was also exemplified in the employees' enthusiastic participation in the September 16 Fun Run, which kicked off the United Way Campaign. The 10-km run, starting at Cartier Square and finishing at the Sir John Carling Building, Central Experimental Farm, was a real fitness challenge for the casual jogger and a competitive opportunity for the serious, dedicated runner. The challenge was taken up by 95 DOC participants, and 72 of them finished the entire run.

On October 21, **Alain Gourd**, our DM and Ex-officio Chairperson of DOC's United Way campaign, presented prizes to the Fun Run participants who finished with the best time in each of three age categories. The presentations were made in DOC's Fitness Club facilities, in honour of the club's 10th anniversary and inaugurating Fitness Awareness Week. The winning runners were:

Class A – men: **André Mainguy** (DCN)  
 Class A – women: **Sandi McDonald** (DMS)  
 Class B – men: **Bob Lucyk** (SPD)  
 Class B – women: **Margaret Fisher** (DDA)  
 Class C – men: **Andreas Thuswaldner** (DFR)  
 Class C – women: **Jeanne Lindblad** (DGIS)

Congratulations to all runners, and particularly the six winners. Well done!



DOC participants give their best in United Way Fun Run.



DM presents plaque to Fun Run winner André Mainguy.

# Long-service employees honoured

A number of employees were recently honoured for 25 years of service in the Public Service of Canada.

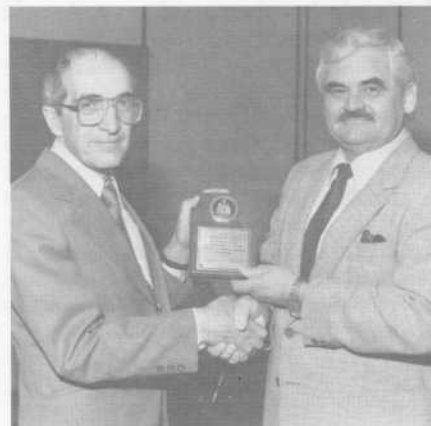
**Guido Henter**, then Director General, Government Telecommunications, presented a 25-year plaque to **Denis Rouillard**, currently working in the shared-messaging services section of GTA.

... **Pierrette Sarrazin**, a word-processing operator in DGFP, received her plaque from **Charles McGee**, Director General, Federal-Provincial Relations at the time.

... And **Robert Ward**, Chief, Administrative and Technical Services at CRC, presented the plaques to four members of that section: **William Carroll**, Instrument Services; **Marc St. Germain**, Prototype Development Services; **Helmut Bucholtz**, Plant Engineering Services; and **Claude Comeau**, Materiel Management.

Congratulations to all.

Robert Ward (centre) at presentations to William Carroll, Marc St. Germain, Helmut Bucholtz, and Claude Comeau (left to right).



Guido Henter gives plaque to Denis Rouillard (left).



Charles McGee presents plaque to Pierrette Sarrazin.



## Under the safety hat

According to Occupational Safety and Health statistics, tripping, slips and falls result in the third largest number of lost-time accidents within government departments. With the approach of the winter season, we must be conscious of one of the principal causes of such accidents: the wet and slippery lobby floors encountered as you enter the buildings. We must also

guard against such other likely causes as electrical cords, raised electrical outlets, open file drawers, spilled liquids, pens, pencils, paper clips or other items on the floor in our work areas.

Be alert. Avoid accident and injury. And report any hazards to the departmental safety officer **Larry Ormsbee** at 990-4429.

## CRC golf tournament a success

On Friday, September 6, employees from the Communications Research Centre (CRC) pitted their club-swinging skills against the challenge of the Canadian Golf Club, "just beyond the fringe" west of Ottawa, for the fourth annual CRC golf tournament. Ninety-one golfers participated, with varying levels of success, in the tournament and a social evening that saw prizes given to every player, as well as trophies awarded to the top golfers.

The major winners were: **Joan Thomas**, whose 102 strokes gave her the low gross score for women, and made her ladies' champion for the third straight year;

**Doreen Adams**, with ladies' low net; **Bill Jahn**, who shot a low gross of 82, to take the men's trophy for the second year in a row; and **Charlie Szabo**, with the men's low net.

Tournament organizers, the CRC Recreation Association, extend thanks to all participants for making the event successful once again.

By the way, for those of you unfamiliar with golf, it is a game where you place a ball 3.2 cm in diameter on another ball 40,000 km in diameter, and try to strike the small ball without hitting the big one.



CRC golf winners, left to right: Joan Thomas, Doreen Adams, Anne Houston and Ray Tosh (organizers), Charlie Szabo, Bill Jahn.

## Protecting our interests

In the interaction between labour and management in the Public Service, there are a number of committees that meet regularly to discuss problems or issues affecting employees and the workplace. Most of these are probably unknown to the majority of us, although they are concerned with our well-being and satisfaction on the job.

One such organization is the DOC National Labour-Management Relations Committee (LMRC), comprised of departmental representatives from Personnel Administration and representatives from the Professional Institute of the Public Service, the Public Service Alliance and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Co-chaired by DGPA **Frank Vieni** and a union representative, the committee deals with issues such as a problem with asbestos insulation at CRC, an air-circulation problem in the Journal Tower North, smoking in the workplace, DOC workforce adjustment, labour-management consultation policy, regional representation, and the integration of human resources with financial and operational planning.

A tip of the hat to members of the LMRC in their efforts to deal with our needs and concerns.

## Have you been pinned?

The department has a new pin. The attractive blue and silver corporate identity pin is being selectively distributed across the country, and the words "Communications Canada," surrounding the Canadian maple leaf, will be an easily-recognizable symbol both of the department and the importance of communications in Canada.



# Spectrum Management Sector: problem solver

Spectrum Management's inspectors encounter a wide variety of problems each day and call upon their very diverse skills in solving them, in representing the department so capably in all parts of Canada.

## ... in Toronto

The Metropolitan Toronto Police Department reported severe interference to several of their tactical channels throughout the day: a "buzzing" sound, similar to that produced by a high-speed drill, that drifted through police frequencies and blocked communications for up to 30 minutes at a time.

Spectrum analysis revealed a narrow-band emission sweeping through these channels. Bearings taken from high-rise buildings showed the emission originating in the south-west area of the city, but the exact location could not be determined because of reflections from buildings. However, information obtained from use of a local FM station's traffic aircraft, along with bearings by inspectors on the ground, led to a bakery in west-end Toronto. A radio-frequency cookie dehydrator was found to be the culprit; the sixth harmonic of its signal fell into police channels.

Because special harmonic filters reduced but did not totally eliminate the radiation, shielding for total suppression is still being researched.

## ... in Kamloops, B.C.

The Kamloops Fire Department complained of an intermittent "chirping" interference affecting their communications.

Investigations by the DOC District Office showed that the interference occurred only when coal trains were in the city. The DOC inspectors thought that the probable cause was the radio in the train's "robot" unit, the locomotive in the centre of the train controlled by radio from the main head-end locomotive. Because of the logistics of times for a specific train in the city and the distance from the District Office, inspectors arranged for the licensees to co-operate in resolving the problem. Whenever the interference occurred, the Fire Department contacted the railway yardmaster, who could then identify the offending unit.

The unit was then tracked until arrival in Vancouver, where repair or replacement could be carried out. The problem was found to be spurious emissions in older VHF radios, and these are being replaced by newer models.

## ... in Niagara Falls

A Niagara Falls taxi company complained that they could not communicate in the evening because of an interfering static-like signal.

DOC inspectors patrolled the area and discovered a signal resembling the noise emitted by a faulty thermostat. The source could not be localized due to the continuously varying intensity of the signal, and

shutting off the power in a number of buildings also failed to isolate it. Attempts to take direction bearings also failed. Finally, use of a directional, ultrasonic receiver to check all externally-mounted devices such as hydro lines, telephone equipment and light standards identified the source as a non-functioning electric sign on a building.

The sign was operated by a timer that applied power from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. The owners of the building decided to discontinue use of the sign rather than repair it.

## ... and in Edmonton

Numerous complaints of objectionable interference to AM-broadcast reception were received in Edmonton.

DOC investigators found that the late-model trolley buses used by the transit system radiated substantial levels of interference throughout the AM radio band. The buses operate on a floating "ground" so that anyone touching the bus and pavement simultaneously would not receive a shock. After tests to filter the interference were inconclusive, it was necessary to seek assistance from the Swiss manufacturing firm's engineers.

Through the co-ordination of DOC personnel, specially-designed filters were developed and installed, successfully eliminating the interference.



Federal and provincial ministers responsible for culture and historic resources held their second 1985 conference in Halifax, September 24-25. Standing, left to right: Jean-Pierre Ouellet (New Brunswick), Billy Joe MacLean (Nova Scotia), William Matthews (Newfoundland), Marcel Masse (Canada), Clément Richard (Quebec), Richard Folk (Saskatchewan), and James Chabot (British Columbia). Seated, left to right: Mary LeMessurier (Alberta), Eugene Kostyra (Manitoba), Lily Munro (Ontario), and George McMahon (Prince Edward Island).

The ministers discussed such agenda items as the economic impact of arts and culture, financing of culture and the arts, payment to Canadian authors for use of their works in libraries, distribution and exhibition of Canadian films and videos, and policy concerning museums. Also, Canadian Communications Minister **Marcel Masse** enunciated Canada's stand on cultural sovereignty publicly for the first time.

Congratulations to all those who helped make the conference one that knowledgeable participants called the best-organized that they had ever attended.