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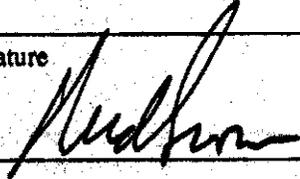
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A newsletter sent to you by the  
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# QUÉBEC



Québec  
Government Office  
in Chicago

## UPDATE

Vol. 93, No. 6, April 30, 1993

### Slow but sustained economic growth: Royal Bank

The Royal Bank thinks that the Canadian economy, supported by significantly increased exports, is well on the way to sustainable growth. Economists with the country's largest bank predicted on April 15 that the gross national product will rise by 3.5 percent this year and by 4.2 percent in 1994, well above predictions for other Western countries.

Growth in Québec should be even higher, bank economists said. The Québec economy is expected to grow by 4.0 percent in 1993 and 4.8 percent next year.

The Canadian unemployment rate, however, will remain nearly stable this year at 11.1 percent, a marginal decline of 0.2 percent, and will drop to 10.5 percent in 1994. The Royal Bank predicts that unemployment in Québec will decline by 0.4 percent this year to 12.4 percent, and will stand at 11.6 percent next year.

Bank spokesmen indicated that the productivity of Canadian companies had increased considerably in the last year and a half, enabling them to more effectively meet international competition. There was an 11 percent rise in Canadian commodities exports in 1992.

In Québec, the sectors that will perform best in the near future, the economists predict, are aerospace, telecommunications, the pharmaceutical industry, aluminum, metal processing and public transportation equipment.

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### \*\*\* R & D NOTES \*\*

### Université de Montréal researcher cited for work on language and brain

Neuropsychologist André-Roch Lecours of the Université de Montréal has won one of the three Killam Memorial Prizes for 1993 for his research on the relationship between language and the brain.

The lifetime-achievement award is administered by the Canada Council and is worth \$50 000.

Trained in Montréal, Boston and Paris, Dr. Lecours holds the chair in gerontology and geriatrics at the university's medical faculty and is director of the research centre at the Centre hospitalier Côte-des-Neiges.

Dr. Lecours is known for his work on aphasia - speech loss due to a disorder in the brain - and on the acquisition of language. He is currently working in Korea, Japan and Egypt, studying the interactions between society and cerebral mechanisms. "The effects of a cerebral lesion may differ in different cultures," Dr. Lecours said. "We are trying to understand how society influences the learning process." What differences are there, for example, between patients recovering their ability to write Chinese calligraphy or with the Arabic alphabet?

Several other Université de Montréal faculty members distinguished themselves in March by winning five of the 14 Killam Fellowships, which help underwrite current projects of Canadian researchers and scholars.

The fellowships went to Marc Leblanc in criminology, Claude Leroy in physics, Patrick J. Mahony for his work on Sigmund Freud, and Bruno Roy and Vaira Vikis-Freibergs in literature.

### Montréal researchers develop mouse for study of Lou Gehrig's disease

A mouse carrying a human gene that causes it to develop symptoms of Lou Gehrig's disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), has been developed at the Montréal General Hospital. The mouse produces excess neurofilaments, the structure that forms the "skeleton" of nerve cells, and the same signs of weakness and abnormal reflexes as people with ALS.

Developed by a team headed by Dr. Jean-Pierre Julien at the Centre for Excellence on Neural Regeneration, of which the McGill University-affiliated lab forms the nucleus, the transgenic mouse carries a human gene that will make it possible to study the development of ALS in its early stages, before the body has deteriorated and the disease is diagnosed, and test possible treatments. ALS affects one in 1000 people and is currently untreatable.

### \*\*\* BUSINESS NOTES \*\*\*

#### Québec biofood exports and imports in 1992

##### Exports

With total export revenue of \$1.52 billion, Québec sold \$180 million more biofood products on international markets in 1992 than the previous year. This was a 13.4 percent increase. Canadian biofood sales abroad increased by 16.2 percent.

In 1992, 18.5 percent of biofood export revenues were generated by pork and 17.6 percent by tobacco. The four other leading groups of exports were marine products (8.9 percent), beverages (8.4 percent), meat other than pork (7.5 percent) and dairy products (6.6 percent).

Québec exports are increasingly concentrated in the United States: 68.2 percent in 1991 compared to 71.6 percent in 1992. Japan's share went from 6.9 percent to 6.8 percent and that of the European Economic Community (EEC) from 9.6 percent to 8.2 percent. The proportion absorbed by all other countries regressed from 15.3 percent to 13.4 percent.

##### ...and imports

In 1992, the total value of Québec's biofood imports was \$1.88 billion. This was a rise of 3.3 percent, a smaller proportion than its exports (13.4 percent, including tobacco, and 4.5 percent, excluding tobacco). Canadian imports increased by 8.2 percent.

The four leading groups of foreign products on the Québec market in 1992 were fruits (18.5 percent), meat (11.5 percent), beverages (10 percent) and vegetables (7.8 percent).

Meat had the highest growth rate (16.7 percent) followed by cocoa (11.8 percent) and cereal products (10 percent).

More and more of Québec's food imports come from the United States: 36 percent in 1991 and 39.3 percent in 1992. The EEC's share grew slightly, from 22.7 percent to 23.4 percent, while that of all other countries declined from 41.3 percent to 37.3 percent.

#### Bell Helicopter awarded American army contract

Bell Helicopter Textron Canada has been awarded its first contract with the U. S. Army. The Mirabel-based firm will build 102 commercial helicopters for use in training.

"These orders, combined with the Canadian Forces program, give us a solid three-year horizon," a company spokesman said, alluding to a \$700 million contract with the Canadian Forces.

Bell has just begun building 206-B Jet Rangers, recalling staff for a five-day week after a year of four-day weeks.

The Mirabel plant, which employs 1150, opened in 1985. It can produce about 150 commercial helicopters a year.

### **Hydro partnership with Motorola largest of its kind in Canada**

Hydro-Québec has signed a \$38-million contract with Motorola Canada for the supply of mobile radio-communication equipment that uses a new digital-transmission telecommunications technology. The system will give Hydro work teams in the field clearer and faster communication with operation centres. It will be in service for 1994-1995.

DMR Québec, a Montréal firm specialized in integrating software and systems, will work with Motorola to develop a PC interface for the SmartZone networks to be installed at Hydro-Québec's operation centres. Motorola equipment will be installed at about 100 transmission sites and serve about 5000 users across the province.

The project, utility officials said, in addition to updating Hydro-Québec's communications system, will enable Québec and Canada to acquire expertise in digital voice transmission, a leading-edge radio communications technology.

### **\*\*\* CULTURE NOTES \*\*\***

#### **Marie-Claire Blais at the Belgian Académie royale de langue et de littérature française**

Québec novelist Marie-Claire Blais, winner of the Prix Médicis in 1966 for Une saison dans la vie d'Emmanuel, will be inducted into the Académie Royale de Langue et de Littérature française de Belgique on May 8. She will be introduced by Academician Liliane Wouters.

Marie-Claire Blais's election to the Belgian Académie as the first non-European to occupy the seat traditionally reserved for a "foreign member" is one of the highest honours an international institution has bestowed on a Québec writer.

Ms. Blais is to occupy the seat left vacant by the late Duchesse Edmée de la Rochefoucauld. The seat has also been held by Comtesse Anna de Noailles, Gabrielle d'Annunzio, Colette and Jean Cocteau.

The induction ceremony will be held at the close of the first European symposium on Québec studies organized at Université de Liège, in collaboration with the Centre d'Études québécoises at Université de Montréal.

#### **La Courte Échelle signs publishing agreements with Italy and Colombia**

The Montréal children's book publisher, La courte échelle, has just concluded agreements with publishers in Colombia and Italy.

One, with Susaeta Ediciones, covers Spanish translations of titles from La courte échelle's collection of novels for the beginning reader. The other, with Franco Panini of Bologna for the Italian market, covers three novels for adolescents.

The Montréal publisher's books, acclaimed by adults and young readers alike for their high quality and readability, are available in ten languages, from German, Danish, Greek and Polish to Chinese and Icelandic. La courte échelle's first novels appeared in 1985. Its hundredth was launched on April 15.

### Québec author wins accolades in Belgium

Québec writer Jacques Lazure, author of Domaine des Sans Yeux published by Québec-Amérique, received the Prix Québec-Wallonie-Bruxelles for children's literature at the Brussels international book fair on April 22. The award, accompanied by a \$3500 bursary, is designed to encourage the development, circulation and co-publication of children's literature in French.

The theme of Domaine des Sans Yeux, a science fiction novel for 14-year-olds and up, is the dispossession of a nation. Twice winner of Radio-Québec competitions for young scriptwriters, Lazure has also crafted several children's plays with the troupe Animaleries.

### \*\*\* TOURISM NOTES \*\*\*

#### Saguenay marine park hearings set for June

Canada's first proposed marine park, the Saguenay marine park, will be the subject of public hearings in June in Tadoussac, La Malbaie, La Baie and Montréal.

The Québec and Canadian governments have made public their joint proposal on the territorial boundaries and development plans for the park. It will cover 1138 square kilometres, from Tadoussac to Cap-à-l'Aigle and up the Saguenay river to 40 kilometres east of Chicoutimi.

The new plan adds 400 square kilometres to the concept initially proposed in 1990.

#### Latulippe: a well-stocked store

French tourists have been visiting the 50-year-old Latulippe family store on Rue Saint-Vallier in Québec City for several years now, often leaving with checkered shirts and cowboy boots. Richard Latulippe, the store's executive director, expects about a hundred busloads of tourists to park at his front door this summer.

Quebecers have long known about this local institution which specializes in clothing and gear for hunting, fishing and outdoor sports, and retails and wholesales rugged work clothes.

What makes the store special, says the Québec City paper *Le Soleil*, are its knowledgeable salespeople and the extraordinary inventory that fills 65 000 square feet on two floors. Latulippe's advertising logo, "Il y a du stock là-dedans...", has entered local parlance to indicate both a flourishing company and a high-energy person...

Latulippe did \$8 million worth of business in 1992 and looks to the future the way a fisherman looks at his new flies: with optimism.

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**Signs of the times:** In April, like clockwork, Québec newspapers run stories on spring flooding, children playing in puddles, the first flocks of migrating waterfowl and the dramatic rescue of at least one animal stranded on ice floating down the St. Lawrence. Usually it's a white-tailed deer. This year it was a coyote sighted off the west end of the island of Montréal. Eventually tranquilized and brought to shore by hovercraft, she - the coyote - was given a rabies shot and returned to the wild.

### \*\*\* CALENDAR OF EVENTS \*\*\*

- \* May 11-12: Théâtre des deux mondes presents "Terra Promessa/Terre promise" at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
- \* Playing at the Fine Arts Theater in Chicago, "Léolo", a film by Jean-Claude Lauzon.
- \* Opening on July 28: The Cirque du Soleil's *Saltimbanco* at Chicago Cityfront Center. For tickets: 312/755-1255. \*\*\*

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# QUÉBEC



Québec  
Government Office  
in Chicago

## UPDATE

Vol. 93, No. 7, May 15, 1993

### Health "excellent," it's "business as usual" for Premier Bourassa

Buoyed by a good bill of health, Premier Bourassa was back at the National Assembly May 4 for the legislative session and a Liberal caucus meeting. "It's business as usual for the time being," he told reporters. "I have to give priority to questions involving the economy and taxes, the budget and language. So I cannot comment on my future today."

Asked if he would lead his party into the next election, Mr. Bourassa said he will decide that at the end of his government's term, in 1994.

### International Affairs Minister on official visit to Washington

Minister of International Affairs John Ciaccia was in Washington from April 26 to 29 to meet with U.S. Commerce and State Department officials and to make Québec's views on certain issues known. He also met with representatives of the Senate and the House, a U.S. Trade Representative office official and Ms. Eileen Claussen, President Clinton's special assistant for environmental issues.

Mr. Ciaccia's meetings had three main themes: Québec's support for the North American Free Trade Agreement, U.S. market access for Québec products and Québec's role on the international scene.

The Minister also addressed members of the Canadian American Business Council and a joint meeting of the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the School for Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

\*\*\* R & D NOTES \*\*\*

### Intergraph opens R & D centre in Hull

Intergraph, a Fortune 500 company specialized in geomatics (remote sensing) technology, has opened its first Canadian research and development centre in Hull in the Outaouais region. Its mission is to develop tools for information integration in conjunction with Intergraph of Huntsville, Alabama, and the Centre de géomatique at Université Laval in Sainte-Foy. The Hull facility currently employs 30.

The Québec energy and resources department has been a governmental pioneer in using geomatics to develop a digital mapmaking program. It has stimulated the use of this technology in managing the province's natural and physical resources.

Under the partnership policy put forward by Québec's Minister of Industry, Commerce and Technology, Gérald Tremblay, Intergraph has undertaken to invest in R & D in Québec. It is associated with Université Laval, Collège de Limoilou in Québec City and three Québec firms - Giro, Viasat and Hauts-Monts - to promote the development and worldwide commercialization of products that are compatible with and complement Intergraph technology.

### **Hugo is now bilingual!**

Logidisque, a leading Québec software publisher, has launched a bilingual grammar corrector, Hugo Plus - Generation 7, the latest in the acclaimed Hugo software family. A technological tour de force and a world first, Hugo Plus - Generation 7 went on sale in over 5000 Canadian computer shops, bookstores and other stores on May 3.

Designed and developed by two Quebecers, Hugo Plus - Generation 7 checks spelling and grammar in both French and English, and can criticize stylistic and typographical elements appropriate to each language. Hugo analyzes whole sentences and proposes options if it finds mistakes. It can also switch quickly from one language to the other.

Development of the first bilingual grammar corrector means Logidisque is now targeting the English Canadian and U.S. markets, company president Louis-Philippe Hébert said.

Hugo, the first grammar correcting software to be developed in French, has 500 000 users around the world. The new bilingual generation could increase this market tenfold.

### **Research centre publishes directory of Québec products**

The Centre de recherche industriel du Québec (CRIQ), the Québec industrial research centre, recently launched the 16th edition of the Répertoire des produits disponibles au Québec. The directory provides information on 12 500 manufacturers and 7 500 wholesalers/distributors active in Québec. It also lists the products manufacturers distribute, brand names and quality standards. Cost: C\$103.

Another CRIQ publication designed for companies interested in exploring new business opportunities is the Québec International Trade Directory 1992 (QITD 1992). It lists Québec products and services, manufacturers active in or interested in export trade, and wholesalers, distributors and international trading houses. Cost: US\$59 shipping and handling included.

Centre de recherche industriel du Québec  
C.P. 9038  
Sainte-Foy (Québec)  
Fax: (418) 652-2212

### **First "green brick" is cast in Abitibi**

Sainte-Geneviève Resources Ltd. has cast its first "green brick", an ingot containing ore (gold, silver...) from mine tailings, and announced that its casting process, a first at the commercial level, could lead to a major environmental breakthrough.

The Québec mining company plans to begin processing the old Val-d'Or Manitou mine's ten million tonnes of residue at the initial rate of 700 tonnes a day, and eventually 2000 to 5000 tonnes a day, to determine the profitability of recovering its ore content. The technology Sainte-Geneviève Resources has developed in conjunction with the Institut national de recherche scientifique (INRS) also aims at neutralizing the sulphides that contaminate mine run-off.

If results are conclusive, Sainte-Geneviève expects to process five new residue dumps a year over the next five years. These will be in Québec, Canada and abroad.

An estimated 10 000 residue dumps around the world are real or potential environmental hazards, a Sainte-Geneviève Resources spokesman said. Many are of economic interest, particularly in developing countries where extraction techniques have left large amounts of ore in the rock powder.

\*\*\* BUSINESS NOTES \*\*\*

**Soft karaoke software poised to enter U.S. Market**

Itching to sing along with Michael Jackson or Elton John? Or maybe Cole Porter or George Gershwin? If your PC has a sound board, you can turn it into a sophisticated karaoke machine with Karaoke Soft, an innovative software program developed in Québec. Pre-released at PC Expo in Montréal in early May, Karaoke Soft will be officially released in the U.S.A. at the spring Comdex show in Atlanta (May 24 to 27) and a Macintosh version is in the works. This is the first time popular music is available on standard 3 1/2" computer disks.

Soft Karaoke was developed by Tune 1000 (The Universal Network of Entertainment), a fledgling subsidiary of the Québec City accounting-software firm, Fortune 1000. Sold with a microphone and a 10-song diskette, for a very affordable \$50, the software enables the consumer to load the songs, adjust pitch and tempo, modify the instruments that are playing and sing the lyrics as they light up on the computer screen. You can adjust the music to your own voice range.

Tune 1000 expects to have 3000 songs in its Soft Karaoke LP catalogue by late summer. TUNE 1000 Tel: (418) 877-8900

**Quebecor Printing Inc. acquires three plants from Arcata Corporation**

Quebecor Printing Inc. announced that its wholly-owned U.S. subsidiary has finalized the acquisition of three Arcata Corporation plants engaged in magazine, catalogue and commercial printing. The plants are located in Buffalo, N.Y., Nashville and Clarksville, Tennessee. Their combined operations generate annual gross sales of US\$200 million and employ approximately 2400 people.

Among the plants' major customers are Reader's Digest, National Enquirer, Time Warner, American Auto Association, Harlequin Enterprises and various magazines published by Hachette. The purchase price is US\$84.5 million, subject to post-closing adjustments.

In addition, Quebecor Printing Inc. has acquired a three-year option to buy Arcata's remaining book printing business.

Quebecor Printing Inc., a subsidiary of Quebecor Inc., is the largest commercial printer in Canada and the second largest in North America. It operates 61 printing and related services plants in Canada, the United States and Mexico. Quebecor Printing Inc. is a leader in web offset, rotogravure and sheetfed printing for the magazine, retail insert, directory, catalogue, newspaper, book, cheque, bank note and other commercial printing.

\*\*\* TOURISM NOTES \*\*\*

**James Bay draws increasing number of tourists**

Some go to see the feats of engineering, others to experience the taiga or visit Cree hunting and fishing grounds for a few hours or days with the obligatory native guide. Many combine adventure tourism with an ecological-industrial visit. What is clear is that the number of tourists visiting the municipality of Baie James in Northern Québec is increasing yearly.

The Société d'énergie de la Baie James (SEBJ) estimates that 100 000 people have visited the James Bay hydroelectric dams it manages since 1976. While many have been engineers and specialists, a growing number are ordinary tourists. The French, Belgians and Germans in particular have been drawn to the North's wide open spaces. The SEBJ expects 10 000 visitors in 1993. And some 80 percent of them will have driven the 16 hours from Montréal to Radisson.

A guided tour of the LG2 hydroelectric facilities, including the world's largest underground generating plant, takes four hours. The tour of LG1, now under construction, takes three hours. Hard hats and reinforced boots are provided free of charge.

Reservations are recommended. The SEJB's number in Montréal is (514) 289-2215. On the spot, it's (819) 638-2483.

### 14th Montréal jazz festival: lineup of big names

New York's Village Voice, reviewing the Montréal International Jazz Festival, recently said, "In 10 days, one can hear what one gets in New York in an entire year." The Jazzfest runs from July 1 to 11. Over 2000 musicians will perform at 350 shows at 15 different venues, André Ménard, head of programming told the press.

American pianists Herbie Hancock, Ellis Marsalis and Marcus Roberts have confirmed their presence as have South African pianist Abdullah Ibrahim and vocalist Bobby McFerrin. Tenor saxophonist Scott Hamilton, alto saxophonist Steve Coleman and the British group John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers will also be on stage.

The 100-member Jazz Journalist Association, whose membership is largely American, will hold its annual meeting in Montréal on the second weekend of the festival.

### Lanaudière festival highlights classical repertoire

A new work by Québec composer André Prevost called Images d'un Festival will be among the highlights of the 16th Festival international de Lanaudière which runs from June 27 to August 3.

An innovative lyrical program sung by Diana Soviero and Lyne Fortin will feature excerpts from the two famous opera versions of the story of Manon Lescaut by Massenet and Puccini.

There will also be a new interpretation of Vivaldi's Four Seasons by the Italian early-music group L'Europa Galante, and a marathon keyboard performance involving eight pianos.

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal will perform at five concerts, including the opening Wagner and Strauss program with soloist Deborah Voigt, and an evening with violinist Itzhak Perlman. Other OSM performances will be in collaboration with Philadelphia's Mann Music Centre and the Saratoga Performing Arts Centre.

Sunday matinées when the family can picnic on the lawn while listening to music will feature, respectively, familiar airs from different countries, the Montréal Jubilation Gospel Choir, a homage to Belgian chansonnier Jacques Brel and the Seltenheim Austrian Choir.

### \*\*\* CALENDAR OF EVENTS \*\*\*

June 5-6: At the Columbus Arts Festival (OH), from Montréal, famous jazz pianist **Oliver Jones** and singer/songwriter **Lucie Blue Tremblay** who "builds every song on a patient, seductive melody" (The Washington Post)

June 5-Aug.15: Québec arctic art at the **Masters of the Arctic** exposition at the Field Museum, Chicago.

Opening on July 29: The fabulous **Cirque du Soleil** presents Saltimbanco at Chicago Cityfront Center. For tickets: 312/755-1255.

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