Chronology of Events January – December 2004

e , e e e e e

An index of these events begins on page 405.

6 January	The United States Department of Agriculture confirms that a Washington State cow found in December 2003 to be infected with BSE was originally exported from Canada. Genetic tests show the cow to have originated in Leduc, Alberta. Further tests are needed to determine how the cow became infected with the disease. This is the second case of mad cow disease involving Canada in less than a year; a northern Alberta cow infected with the disease was discovered in May 2004.				
8 January	Provincial governments reject an American proposal to resolve the softwood lumber dispute. The offer would have given Canadian lumber producers duty-free access to 31.5 percent of the U.S. market. The provinces want a larger quota and explicit details on what reforms are needed for full access to the American market to be restored. Federal International Trade Minister Jim Peterson insists that ne- gotiations with the United States will continue in pursuit of an acceptable agreement.				
9 January	Agriculture Minister Bob Speller announces a \$92 mil- lion increase in federal funding for BSE testing. The funding should allow for the testing of as many as 30,000				

-1	6 , 6 6 6 6 6
	animals per year, up from 5,500 in 2003. Speller's plan comes in response to recently released U.S. Department of Agriculture DNA evidence, which established Alberta as the origin of an American cow that was found in De- cember 2003 to be infected with BSE. Critics, however, note that the number of cattle tested will remain less than one percent of the 3.5 million slaughtered in Canada each year.
10–11 January	The first meeting of the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral

- 00 1

"firewall committee" by opposition parties, a reference to a plan endorsed by the Alberta Residents League that calls on the provincial government to opt out of the

and establish its own public pension plan, pođ lice, and tax collection. Task force chairman Ian McClelland insists that the committee will not consider any calls for Alberta's separation from Canada.

Quebec Public Security Minister Jacques Chagnon estab-19 January lishes a new policing plan for the Kanesatake native 8 8 reserve which partners the band's police forces with the RCMP and the Sureté du Québec. Kanesatake leaders, e , e e e e e e

28 January A public inquiry is launched into the reasons for the September 2002 deportation to Syria of Maher Arar, a Ċ Canadian citizen. American officials arrested Arar while he was changing planes in New York en route home from a vacation in Tunisia. He was subsequently deported on suspicion of connections to al-Qaeda. The mandate of the inquiry will be to investigate the involvement of Canadian officials and institutions in Arar's deportation and to make recommendations towards improving Canada's treatment of similar security investigations. American officials claim that Canadian information was part of the basis for Arar's deportation. 29 January The inaugural meeting of the National Health Council is held in Toronto. Composed of twenty-six members from Ċ Ċ both federal and provincial governments, the council is mandated with monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the 2003 First Ministers' Accord on Health Care Renewal, most notably with respect to provisions concerning accountability and transparency. Included in this mandate is the monitoring of provincial spending of

federal transfers. Some provinces see the council as fed-

2 -

environment and wildlife in the Northwest Territories. Two Inuvialuit members will sit on the panel to represent Abo-

20	e , e e e e e
9 February さ さ	Claude Ryan dies at age seventy-nine. Ryan led the Que- bec Liberal Party from 1978 to 1983, playing an integral role in the victory of the No side in the 1980 sovereignty

Prg21.5(amle)]TJ/F2 1 TbtR(0(2.4.2 TD0.005 Tc-0.0437 TwA scagr)r 6 - 5 .

- ot 1 * t t t 1/2 - 2

	year. Announcements of new spending include \$1.04 mil- lion over three years for health care, \$313 million over three years for education, and \$1.3 billion over three years for transportation infrastructure. The government further announces a lower than expected deficit for the third quarter of the 2003–4 fiscal year, savings the gov- ernment intends to devote primarily to Olympic preparations, health care, and education. Critics view the elimination of the budget deficit as the government solving a self-created problem, given the large tax cuts implemented by the Liberals at the beginning of their term.
17 February C -	A Royal Society of Canada report on British Columbia offshore oil drilling is released. The study, commissioned by the federal government, concludes that there are no gaps in scientific knowledge that prevent the lifting of fed- eral and provincial moratoria on offshore exploration. It stops short, however, of directly calling for a lifting of the bans. Federal cabinet ministers are divided over whether the ban should be lifted.
19 February € €	Premier Ralph Klein, angered by a continuing impasse in federal-provincial health-care reform discussions, threat- ens to push forward with market-based health-care reforms despite regulations. The value of his plans, he argues, would exceed the associated penalties. It is the first time a premier has openly suggested opting out of the Act.
20 February ⊮	Finance ministers from equalization-recipient provinces leave a meeting with federal Finance Minister Ralph Goodale very dissatisfied. Agreement is not reached on reforms to methods of equalization calculation that would increase payment amounts; under the status quo, a weakened Ontario economy will result in a \$3 billion reduction in total equalization payments for the com- ing year. The provincial ministers further fail to obtain a federal commitment on permanent increases in health- care funding. They warn that they will not cooperate with the federal government on municipal funding in- creases if the federal government does not cooperate with respect to health care.

- 0° 1 ° c c c 1 ' - - - -

to allow for the possibility of an appeal. The appeal, filed by the Catholic Civil Rights League, is rejected on the basis of changing attitudes towards the definition of marriage. The court ruling explicitly states that licences for same-sex marriages can be issued immediately.

		Energy Board manage energy exports, the provinces are responsible for power supply regulation. Z
6 April	: c	The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador vows to end the slaughter of Red Wine River caribou by Quebec Innu hunters. The Innu are protesting the unwillingness of the Newfoundland and Labrador government to recog- nize their Labrador territory land claim, and they assert that the protest hunt will continue until negotiations are held. Red Wine River caribou are classified as endangered both provincially and federally, with the smallest herd numbering fewer than a hundred animals. The Innu Na- tion of Labrador's call for its Quebec counterpart to stop the hunt has also been ignored.
16 April		ullMapon5(,1Tc-0.0397Tw[(T)-sd0fs31T[Primalsafig78nt01Tm063dgTc

-71	ê , ê ê ê ê ê ê
	found on an Alberta farm in May 2003 led the United States to close its border to Canadian beef exports; prior to this announcement, the only reopening of the U.S. markets to Canadian beef, in August 2003, was limited to selected boneless cuts. Canadian cattle producers will now be able to export to the United States a wider list of beef prod- ucts, including ground beef and bone-in cuts. Canadian officials are encouraged by the announcement but will continue to push for a complete lifting of restrictions on beef exports.
23 April	Speaking in Markham, Ontario, Premier Dalton McGuinty proposes wide-ranging bilateral provincial-federal agree- ments on issues such as health-care funding and immigration should negotiations with other provinces not prove effective. McGuinty hopes for a leadership role for Ontario in achieving consensus between the provinces and Ottawa, given the positional proximity of the province with the federal government compared with other provinces. He emphasizes the importance of immediate long-term solutions. McGuinty's address follows Premier Jean Charest's comment the previous day that "pan-Canadian" health-care agreements are not necessary for reform.
29–30 April	A Canadian policy against doping in sport is adopted at a federal, provincial, and territorial conference of ministers responsible for sport, recreation, and fitness. The policy, which reaffirms Canada's commitment to international leadership in combatting drug use in sport, will ensure Canadian compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code, set to come into effect in 2004. The ministers further discuss possible measures to increase participation in and funding for physical activity.
30 April	Paul Martin makes his first official visit to the White House. He obtains a commitment from President George W. Bush that the United States will drop its ban on Cana- dian exports of live cattle "as soon as possible," though no exact date is given. The two also discuss such issues as

0° 1

,7,

coldness of relations between Bush and the former prime minister, Jean Chrétien.

ree e 11

4 May Federal Fisheries Minister Geoff Regan announces a limited reopening of cod fishing in the Gulf of St Lawrence. 1 6 6 Newfoundland and Quebec fishermen will be allowed to fish 6,500 tonnes of cod in designated areas of the gulf. The announcement is welcomed by fishermen and their unions, many of whom were left unemployed by the cod moratorium imposed in April 2004. Scientists are outraged, however, given the continued scarcity of cod in the gulf. Noting the likelihood of an upcoming federal election, they deem that the reopening is compromising science in fa-

.7.	\$, \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$
12 May 0	The federal and Nova Scotia governments announce a \$400 million plan to attempt to clean the tar ponds of Sydney, Nova Scotia. The ponds, which contain a million tonnes of tar left over from the production of coke during the twentieth century, are filled with toxic material and have been linked to health problems, including cancer and liver disease. Although more than \$100 million has already been ineffectually invested in the cleaning of the ponds, officials insist this effort will be successful.
15 May	The Bloc Québécois is the first party to officially unveil its platform for the upcoming election. The party focuses on five issues: democracy, sustainable development, de- mographic shifts, services for Quebecers, and the internationalization of Quebec's voice. Though the plat- form contains no direct discussion of sovereignty, Bloc leader Gilles Duceppe insists that the goal of an independ- ent Quebec remains the ultimate objective of the party.
18 May	The 2005 provincial budget is tabled in the Ontario leg- islature. It introduces an Ontario health premium, a levy deducted from wages by employers towards improve- ments in health care. Including revenue generated from the premium as well as other sources such as increased alcohol and tobacco taxes, the government expects to invest \$4.8 billion in new health-care funding over the next four years. Opposition parties criticize the gov- ernment for breaking its election promise not to raise taxes. They note that the new premium, despite not be- ing formally called a tax, bears all the characteristics of taxation. Other budget highlights include a \$2.1 bil- lion increase in education funding and a two-thirds reduction in the provincial deficit.
20 May	Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan announces plans to reform the federal gun registry. If re-elected, the Lib- eral government will eliminate fees for registering firearms and cap the program's expenses at \$25 million per year. McLellan further outlines proposed stiffer penalties for firearms-related crimes. Critics deride the proposals, say- ing the government would be better off scrapping the registry entirely.

//

74

20 May The Green Party of Canada unveils its platform for the upcoming federal election. Issues discussed include in-Ċ creases in gasoline taxes, rebates on the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles, and promises to not run deficits without a referendum-approved mandate. Leader Jim Harris, noting the consistent 5 percent party support recorded in polls, boldly predicts that the party will receive one million votes and be represented in the next parliament.

21 May Eighty-nine formerly independent municipalities are granted the right to hold referendums on megacity Ċ demerger. To force a referendum, 10 percent of eligible voters in each former municipality must sign a register over the course of two days. Voters in the former municipalities are angered by the undemocratic manner in which the megacities were created; the former Parti Québécois provincial government had ignored all demonstrations and indications of public will in pursuing its amalgamations. Referendums will take place on 20 June.

Prime Minister Paul Martin asks Governor General Adrienne Clarkson to dissolve Parliament and officially Ċ calls an election for 28 June. Martin defines the election as a choice between visions of Canada, taking direct aim at the Conservatives by calling on Canadians to reject proposals that replicate American values. He highlights the accomplishments achieved over three terms of Liberal government, including seven balanced budgets and \$52 billion in debt repayment.

The opposition parties are equally quick out of the gates. Conservative leader Stephen Harper accuses the Liberals of running on a "campaign of fear" against his party to hide their failures while in government, particularly the sponsorship scandal. New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton contrasts the ideological distinctiveness of his party's platform with the similarity of the Liberals and Conservatives. The Bloc Québécois, downplaying sovereignty, calls on Quebecers to allow it to defend, in Parliament, Quebec values such as justice and tolerance.

23 May

N. C

e , e e e e e



In a campaign speech in Cobourg, Ontario, Prime Minister Paul Martin outlines his party's plans to improve health care if re-elected. Calling health his party's top priority, he commits \$9 billion for reducing waiting times, hiring more doctors and nurses, and creating a national homecare program. He asserts that his plan can be achieved without increased taxes or premiums. Conservative leader Stephen Harper, speaking in Fredericton, New Brunswick, responds by noting that funding problems were created by Liberal governments in the first place. He further ques-

			o¢	1	122	e 1	//	1 7
		vote on starting Ontario fixed ele	the f on 4 will ectior	irst Thur October become dates. T	sday in 0 2007. Fol the secor	Octobes lowing id prov seeks to	sal, Ontaria r every fou British Co rince to imporeduce vo	r years, lumbia, plement
3 June	ć	building health c promises consistes clude a \$7-a-day	g on are a s \$28 ntly r natio y mod eased	previous and feder billion ir naintaini onal chil lel, expar l promot	annound ral-munic new sper ng baland d-care pl usion of th	cement ipal re nding o ced buc an bas e Cana	s election pl ts made re- elations. Th ver five yea lgets. Propo ed on the dian Armed er as an alto	garding ne party rs while osals in- Quebec Forces,
5 June	ć	unveil it lion ove notably his prom Liberals	s electric five with r nises , lead	ction pla e years in respect to cost twic	tform. The n tax cuts health car e as much en Harper	e party s and s re and t n as tho	he major pa y proposes s pending in he military. ose proposed his plan is	\$58 bil- creases, Though d by the
14–15 June		French-	langu	age deb	ate, Bloc	Québé	in Ottawa écois leade both the Cc	r Gilles

.

scandal. Harper criticizes Martin for having called an elec-

platformed in 2003 on allowing municipalities the opportunity to regain their independence. The new cities will e , e e e e e

party's size as the official opposition. Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe calls his party's showing a victory for Quebecers, while NDP leader Jack Layton is proud of his party's gains despite predictions of an even stronger showing. The Green Party makes a positive showing as well, receiving 4 percent of the popular vote and qualifying for federal funding as an official party.

30 June Alongside announcements of \$700 million in new healthcase funding, Premier Ralph Klein tables the Graydon Ċ Ċ Report on Health Care Funding, a set of recommendations made by a 2002 provincial health-care task force under Conservative MLA Gordon Graydon. The report calls for an increased private share of health-care expenses through the implementation of a health-care deductible and of increased health-care premiums. The premier was criticized for waiting until after the end of the federal election to release the report, a delay believed to have contributed to the decline in support for the Conservatives. Klein further alludes to plans for more radical change to health care in the province should his government win re-election in the fall, expressing a willingness to forge ahead even if his plans contravene the . _ 0

7-9 July The Annual Western Premiers' Conference is held in Inuvik, Northwest Territories. Unanimous support is ex-8 8 pressed for the principles of the) but the premiers insist that more money and flexibility is needed from the federal government to sustain the current system. The premiers foresee a window of eighteen months in which a new health-care agreement can be negotiated before another federal election can be expected. The Western Energy Alliance is created by the leaders to cooperate in developing and promoting the energy sector in the region. The premiers further call on the federal government to push for a reopening of the U.S. border for exports of Canadian beef and to create a comprehensive BSE recovery plan.

12 JulyPremier Ralph Klein announces a \$3 billion addition to a
debt-retirement account that will allow the province to
pay off its provincial debt fully. Obligations will be re-
paid from the account as they mature in order to avoid

с., с. с. с. с.

time ministers are appointed, including Ken Dryden (Social Development), Ujjal Dosanjh (Health), Tony Valeri (house leader), and David Emerson (Industry). Shifted

		-	9¢	I	₿ ĉ ĉ	¢ _I	//	% 2
					vironmenta vincial em			
	3 August	berta BS to large ated foll in Alben cial gov short pe a flood by more they rec	SE Re meat- owing ta an ernm riod a of sup than ogniz	ecovery packing the Ma d jointl ents, pa and only oply wh 60 perc	report rev Program I g firms that ay 2003 dis y funded b id assistan y on the slav ich depres ent. Alberta laws in the iven the ur	has proven to farm covery of by the f ce to pro- ughter of sed the a provin federal	vided mor hers. The p of mad cov ederal and roducers o of animals price of ra- icial offici program	e benefit blan, cre- v disease l provin- nly for a , causing aw cattle als claim but were
	11 August	tion of A releases "firewal dismisse depende Pension policing wards	Albert its fi 1 con es cal ent ta Plan, g, and incre izes 1	a's plac inal rep . The c nmittee ls for ra x collec but it e d inter; eased j the nee	rnment con ce in Canac ort, c committee " by oppo adical chan ction, and ndorses ref governmen provincia d to push	had bee sition p ge such opting orms to ntal con	y Ian Mc r referred parties. The as separa out of the transfer per mmunicat nomy. It	Clelland, to as the report ation, in- Canada ayments, ions to- further
,	12 August	the Fede gram. H Canadia	eratio le cal ins, e	n's proj ls the p mphasi	Martin re posal for a lan out of zing home s his gover	nationa line wi care a	al pharmae th the price nd shorter	care pro- prities of waiting

universal coverage of "catastrophic" drug costs. The premiers caution the prime minister not to dismiss the plan before its formal presentation at the forthcoming First

°, ~4	
	political pressures relating to the continued sponsorship fallout would have inevitably led to his dismissal.
23 August	The Ontario government signs an agreement with the As- sociation of Municipalities of Ontario binding the province to consultation with the association when proposing changes that would affect municipal budgets. Premier Dalton McGuinty hails the agreement as "historic," call- ing it recognition of municipalities as a full-fledged level of government. Toronto Mayor David Miller is infuriated, however, threatening to pull his city out of the association if the deal prevents his city from negotiating directly with Queen's Park. McGuinty responds by insisting that big cities will continue to have direct relations with the province.
24 August	Justice Louise Charron and Justice Rosalie Abella, both of the Ontario Court of Appeal, are nominated to fill va- cancies on the Supreme Court of Canada. Despite allegations of making selections based on criteria such as gender and support for same-sex marriage, Justice Minis- ter Irwin Cotler insists both choices were made purely on merit. While the selections will be subjected to commit- tee review, the committee will have no veto power. Cabinet will approve the selections following the committee's review.
29 August	Canada finishes with twelve medals in the Athens Sum- mer Olympics, tied with Bulgaria for nineteenth place overall. Canadian athletes bring home three gold medals, six silver, and three bronze. The Canadian Olympic Com- mittee decries the poor showing as a reflection of the need for increased funding, and Jacques Rogge, International Olympic Committee president, promises to visit federal officials to petition for greater support. Minister of State for Sport Stephen Owen, however, insists that no new money will be forthcoming.
30 August	A motion to force a leadership review in the Parti Québécois fails. Party leader Bernard Landry had faced heavy internal party criticism, with many in his party claiming he has been ineffective in promoting the sovereigntist cause. Some, including the former premier

30

ree e, "-

16 September The National Hockey League imposes a lockout on its players. The league's collective bargaining agreement expired at 10 p.m. the previous day; league players and owners are deeply divided in negotiations for a new agreement. Team owners, claiming large consistent losses, are demanding a cap on player salaries, while players refuse to accept any such measure. Neither side is optimistic about the possibility of a quick resolution to the dispute. 18 September The mayors of Canada's largest cities, meeting at a summit in Toronto, soften their demands for funding through Ċ federal fuel taxes. The mayors call for an immediate 2.5 cent municipal share of federal fuel taxes rising to 5 cents by 2007 (down from earlier calls for an immediate 5 cent share). Federal Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities John Godfrey rejects the mayor's calls, however, saying that federal commitments to fuel tax redistribution amount only to half the amount demanded by the mayors. Speaking at the summit, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty commits the provincial government to reviewing the towards giving Toronto more independence in managing municipal affairs. Both provincial and city governments will participate in the review. 19 September John Tory is elected leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario. Tory, seen as a more centrist choice than his opponents Jim Flaherty and Frank Klees, is expected to move the party away from the hard-right policies of Mike Harris and the Common Sense Revolution. Tory previously served as chief executive of Rogers Cable and ran unsuccessfully in the 2003 Toronto mayoral election. 24 September The Nova Scotia Supreme Court rules that banning same-2 2 . sex marriage is unconstitutional. Nova Scotia thus becomes the sixth Canadian jurisdiction to recognize and license gay marriages. Provincial Justice Minister Michael Baker calls opposing same-sex marriage futile, given the precedents set by rulings in other provinces. 30 September Adrienne Clarkson's term as governor general is extended to September 2005. Both Prime Minister Paul Martin and 30 88 Opposition Leader Stephen Harper express their support

billion increase and a 3.5 percent growth rate thereafter. A panel review of equalization payment allocation is further launched to examine inequities in current methods of funding distribution and to make recommendations. Support for the proposals is not unanimous, however. Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams boycotted the meeting because of the conditions that Prime Minister Paul Martin seeks to place on his province's share of oil and gas royalties.

ree e, "-

27-29 October The Northern Development Ministers' Forum is held in Chibougamau, Quebec. Topics discussed by the ministers Ċ include updating the forum's 2004-6 Action Plan, northern recruitment and retention, and transportation infrastructure. The ministers approve *J* , an information package designed to promote the importance of Canada's North. Although Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Andy Scott is not in attendance, the ministers are satisfied with the achievements of the meeting and look forward to meeting with Scott and receiving his support for the discussed principles and initiatives.

1 November A report commissioned by the Saskatchewan government on the integrity of the May 2004 Métis Nation of Sas-Ċ Ċ katchewan (MNS) presidential election is released. The report confirms allegations of ineptitude and organized efforts to subvert the democratic process. In response to the report, the province announces its intention to cut off all intergovernmental relations with the MNS pending a new presidential election with independent scrutiny. The province will also continue to freeze just over \$400,000 in provincial MNS funding, which was withheld during the investigation. Dwayne Roth, winner of the May election, views the government's actions as attempts to undermine Métis hunting rights and land claims. MNS presidential challengers, however, applaud the findings of the report.

2 November The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Social Services takes place in Ottawa in Ċ pursuit of a national early learning and child-care system. Agreement is reached on the fundamental principles of the plan, including quality, universal inclusiveness, e , e e e e e

accessibility, and a developmental focus. The ministers hope to finalize the agreement in early 2005. The federal government has pledged \$5 billion in transfers to the provinces over five years to fund the plan, contingent on agreement and on provincial compliance with the program principles. Claude Béchard, Quebec family welfare minister, insists that federal monies be transferred unconditionally.

5 November

00,-

- 90

1

ree e, ¹¹ →

destination for surpluses. Critics further decry the continued unexpectedly high surpluses of the federal government, alleging intentional underestimation.

18 November Missisauga-Erindale MP Carolyn Parrish is removed from the federal Liberal caucus by Prime Minister Paul Martin. Ċ The dismissal is the result of a year-long series of inflammatory public comments and actions by the MP, notably attacks on American policy and on the Iraq war. Parrish had further undermined the prime minister's leadership by affirming publicly in an interview that she "wouldn't shed a tear" if the Liberals lost the next election and Martin was forced to resign. The loss of Parrish reduces the

/ ~1	6 , 6 6 6 6 6
	granting to Alina Balaican of a ministerial permit to stay in Canada by federal Immigration Minister Judy Sgro. Federal opposition MPs allege the permit was granted in recognition of the involvement of Balaican and her hus- band in Sgro's re-election campaign in Toronto. Sgro insists the permit was granted on humanitarian grounds.
30 November – 1 December	U.S. President George W. Bush makes his first official visit to Canada. Although Bush had previously attended two summits in Canada, he had not previously made an official visit. A planned May 2003 visit had been cancelled following former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's decision not to support the U.Sled invasion of Iraq. Prime Minister Paul Martin meets Bush in Ottawa on 30 November to discuss issues including joint security, foreign policy, and beef exports, with Bush pledging on the final issue to act to expedite the reopening of American borders to Canadian cattle. In a public address the following day in Halifax, Bush outlines his government's foreign policy intentions and asks for Canadian support in the "war on terror" and on ballistic missile defence.
6 December	The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador ratifies the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement. The agree- ment grants the Inuit numerous community government rights as well as ownership of 15,800 square kilometres of land. The Labrador Inuit Association approved the agreement in May; only federal approval remains before the agreement becomes law. The Métis people of Labra- dor, however, stage a protest on the steps of the provincial assembly building, fearing that the agreement will hinder their attempts to reach a land claims agreement.
9 December	Ruling on a series of non-binding federal government questions, the Supreme Court defends the federal govern- ment as the sole arbiter of marriage rights in Canada. The ruling, in affirming marriage to be within federal jurisdic-

ree e, "

marriage to include same-sex couples. The ruling also defends the right of religious institutions opposed to samesex marriage to refuse to perform them. The Supreme Court declines, however, to answer the question of whether restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples is unconstitutional.

21 December Closing arguments conclude in the Samson Cree First Nation court case. The band is suing the federal govern-Ċ Ċ ment for \$1.4 billion, alleging fifty years of mismanagement of oil and gas revenues. The trial has been one of the longest Aboriginal lawsuits in Canadian history, including 365 days of trial. It has also been one of the most expensive, the combined spending of the two sides exceeding \$100 million. The case's ruling is expected to set a new precedent for the way in which Aboriginal oil and gas assets are treated in Canada. Lawyers for the band are already claiming partial victory; in a 17 December interim ruling, Justice Max Teitelbaum ordered that of \$360 million in oil revenues, which the federal government had been holding in a trust fund, be returned to the Cree.

21 December The Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador rules 2 2 . that the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage is unconstitutional. Through the ruling, Newfoundland and Labrador becomes the seventh province in Canada to recognize same-sex marriage. Provincial government officials will not challenge the ruling.

<

23 December Following fruitless negotiations with Finance Minister Ralph Goodale on the issue of offshore oil and gas royalties, Premier Danny Williams orders the removal of all Canadian flags from provincial government buildings. Williams seeks the exemption of such royalties from calculations of equalization payments as per a promise made by Paul Martin during the June election campaign. According to Williams, offers presented by the federal government provide only partial exemptions of offshore oil and gas royalties from equalization calculations. Prime Minister Paul Martin calls the flag removals disrespectful, blasting the premier for using a national symbol as a tool in political negotiations.



26 December	An Indian Ocean earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Rich- ter scale triggers a violent tsunami that hits more than a dozen countries in South and Southeast Asia. More than 140,000 deaths are reported. The Government of Canada commits \$425 million over five years towards humanitar- ian aid, rehabilitation, and reconstruction in the most affected countries, particularly Indonesia and Sri Lanka. A further \$20 million is donated by provincial and territo- rial governments, and more than \$230 million is donated by non-governmental organizations, employee unions, and the private sector.
30 December	Reports of a second Canadian case of mad cow disease

Chronology 2004: Index

đ đ 14 January, 19 January, 28 January, 6 April, 19 April, 26 May, 17 June, 21 June, 1 November, 6 December, 21 December đ 15 January, 17 February, 19 February, 24 March, 18 June, 30 June, 12 July, 3 August, 11 August, 10 September, 22 November 12 February 10–11 January, 17 February 6 January, 9 January, 22 March, 19 April, 3 August, 10 September, 30 December . . **,** e 13 January, 30 April, 30 November - 1 December ∉ 27 January, 2 November ê. 🕵 ê 23-24 February, 28-30 July, 1-2 September , č 4-5 February 1 2 12 November 30 January, 17 February, 5 April e . 20 February, 26 October, 23 December 23 May, 14-15 June, 28 June N. 6 Ĉ. 20 July, 22 July N. 6 e 8 March, 23 March, 16 November 30 January, 13-16 September đ .,1 e e 4 May, 6 May . . 9ê pêê 30 September 20 May e 29 January, 19 February, 16 April, 25 May, 30 June, 12 August, 16–17 October 22 November 1 16 September 22-23 January, 21 May, 20 June, 23 August, 18 September ć 1 < ر 6 April, 4 May, 26 May, 6 December, 21 December, 23 December 27–29 October Ċ

- ✓ c c c 30 January
- 12 May, 24 September