

# ***State of the Federation 2007: Chronology***



12 April

*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Funding and Employment  
For Aboriginal post  
Secondary students*

The Government of Manitoba, the federal government, and the Business Council of Manitoba announce that they will provide \$1.35 million in financial assistance as well as summer and interim employment to Aboriginal students pursuing post-secondary education.

19 April

*Aboriginal Peoples,*

s busiest corridors is halted by



- 16 July  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Cree Nation of Quebec  
Settlement*
- In an historic step for federal-native relations, the Government of Canada reaches a \$1.4 billion settlement with the Cree Nation of Quebec, ending three decades of complaints over the government not living up to treaty obligations. The deal also suspends three Cree lawsuits accusing the federal government of failing to deliver all benefits promised in the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.
- 23 July  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal court dispute,  
Settlement*
- The federal government announces that it will pay \$25 million to help settle a court dispute over its failure to consult with Aboriginal groups over the proposed Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline, which would carry gas south from the Arctic and terminate on traditional Aboriginal lands in northern Alberta.
- 25 July  
*Aboriginal Peoples,*
- The Province of B.C. and the Tsawwassen First Nation successfully negotiate and ratify a new treaty that will give the group more TJ.

**28 August**

*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Federal funding,  
Aboriginal Health  
Human Resource*

Conservative MP Rick Casson announces that the federal government will spend \$1 million over three years under the Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative to help increase the system, particularly in First Nations communities.

**30 August**

*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Weeneebayko Health  
Integration Framework*

Minister of Health Tony Clement unveils a new plan, the Weeneebayko Area Health Integration Framework Agreement, to resolve the duplication of health care services and health care gaps

December 20  
*Aboriginal Peoples,  
Ipperwash Project*

The Ontario government announces that Ipperwash Provincial Park is to be handed over to the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. The 44 hectare piece of land gained notoriety in 1995 when a Native protester, Dudley George, was shot and killed by the OPP.

## **Agriculture**

1 January  
*Agriculture,  
Canadian Wheat  
Board*

The ongoing dispute between Western Canadian farmers and the federal government over the future of the Canadian Wheat Board(CWB) is expected to stretch into the spring. Both sides prepare for a

10 April  
*Agriculture,*

The federal government and the Government of New Brunswick  
announce changes to the Canada



- 13 July  
*Agriculture,  
Canada, B.C., funding  
For fruit growers*
- The federal government and the Province of B.C. announce that they have reached a joint-agreement to provide \$8 million to B.C. fruit growers to help them develop new products and find new markets.
- 13 July  
*Agriculture,  
Cover Crop Protection  
Program*
- The federal government announces that it will commit \$52 million over the next four years through the Cover Crop Protection Program to assist agricultural producers who are unable to seed commercial crops due to spring flooding or excessive field moisture.
- 22 July  
*Agriculture,  
Canadian Wheat Board*
- The Canadian Wheat Board takes the federal government to court in a last-ditch attempt to preserve its monopoly on barley sales. The Board argues that the government ignored several sections of the Wheat Board Act that require the passage of legislation before changes can be made to the monopoly.
- 01 August  
*Agriculture,  
Canadian Wheat Board,  
Court ruling*
- Federal Court Judge Dolores Hansen rules on the future of the  on barley sales. Judge Hansen concludes that Agricultural Minister Chuck Strahl was wrong to introduce a regulation that would allow Western Canadian farmers to market barley independently, ruling that amendments to the 1998 Canadian Wheat Board Act which governs the Board requires a vote in Parliament.
- November 19  
*Agriculture,  
U.S. border opening*
- After more than four years of restricted trade due to the mad-cow disease scare, the U.S. border opens to older live cattle and their meat products.
- December 18  
*Agriculture,  
Alberta,  
BSE*
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has confirmed the diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a 13-year-old beef cow in  man food or animal feed systems due to enhanced feed ban laws which came into effect on July 12, 2007.
- Budget**
- 20 February  
*Budget,  
B.C.*
- The Liberal government of B.C. introduces its 2007 budget and will use a hefty surplus to improve housing conditions, cut taxes, and target environmental issues. Full details of the budget can be found at online at: <http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2007/highlights/>

7 March  
*Budget,*  
*Nunavut*

Nunavut Finance Minister David Simailak tables the northern  
-2008 budget. Full details of the budget can be  
found online at:  
<http://www.gov.nu.ca/finance/mainbudgets/2007.shtml>

13 March  
*Budget,*

New Brunswick Finance Minister Victor Boudreau tables the  
provinces 2007-2008 budget with further investments to health

- 26 March  
*Budget,  
Federal government,  
Confidence vote*
- Despite the efforts of Atlantic Premiers to convince MPs to vote against the f  
survives a crucial confidence vote on the federal budget, easing fears of a snap spring election. The Bloc Quebecois supported the budget despite Liberal abstention and NDP opposition in the House.
- 4 April  
*Budget,  
Manitoba*
- Manitoba Finance Minister Greg Selinger introduces the  
-2008 budget. The pre-election budget includes a surplus of \$175 million much of which will go to paying down the provincial debt. Full details of the budget can be found online at:  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/budget07/index.html>
- 19 April  
*Budget,  
Yukon Territory*
- 2008  
budget. Full details of the budget can be found online at:  
<http://www.finance.gov.yk.ca/general/publications.html>
- 22 April  
*Budget,  
Alberta*
- Alberta Finance Minister Lyle  
-  
2008 budget amidst surging energy revenues. The budget includes a \$2.2 billion surplus and nearly \$200 million in personal and corporate tax cuts. Full details of the budget can be found online at:  
<http://www.gov.ab.ca/budget2007>
- 26 April  
*Budget,  
Newfoundland  
And Labrador*
- Newfoundland and Labrador Finance Minister Tom Marshall tables the  
-2008 budget. The budget includes the largest  
income tax reduc



*Provincial-U.S. State  
Agreements*

change. Quebec, following the four Maritime Provinces, joins a grouping of seven northeast U.S. states called the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Meanwhile, Manitoba joins the voluntary Chicago carbon market and British Columbia signs a \$30 million deal with California to study ways of injecting carbon dioxide back into the earth.

17 January





June 13



- 06 July  
*Environment,  
Aboriginal Peoples,  
B.C., protected land*
- The government of B.C. and the In-shuck-ch Nation sign an agreement outlining how 250,000 square hectares of environmentally and culturally sensitive wilderness located 150 kilometres northeast of Vancouver will be protected.
- 09 July  
*Environment,  
Federal funding,  
NFLD and Labrador  
fisheries*
- Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Loyola Hearn announces \$5.1 million in federal funding to start repair projects at nine key northeast coasts.
- 18 July  
*Environment,  
Ontario, online map*
- The Government of Ontario launches an online climate change map, the first of its kind in Canada. The map graphically illustrates regional temperature and moisture changes due to global warming.
- 08 August  
*Environment,  
Nahanni Ecosystem*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces an expansion to the Nahanni provincial park in the Northwest Territories. The announcement allows for the protection of an additional 5,400 square kilometres of land within the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem.
- September 8  
*Environment,  
APEC Summit in  
Australia,  
Draft resolution to  
Replace Kyoto*
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper signs a draft resolution with the other leaders of the APEC nations that replaces the Kyoto Protocol. The agreement was reached during an APEC summit in Australia, no details have been specified but Prime Minister Harper does say that the agreement will not bind signatories to meet firm goals, instead it will provide a blueprint for countries to follow to slow, stop, and reverse climate change.
- September 19  
*Environment,  
Kyoto Accord*
- An environmental group takes legal action against the federal government regarding greenhouse gas emissions. They filed application to force the federal government to meet its obligations under Kyoto, arguing that the he targets set in the Kyoto Accord.
- September 24  
*Environment,  
Kyoto Accord,  
Asia Pacific  
Partnership*
- At an U.N. conference on the Kyoto Accord, Prime Minister Harper announces that Canada will join a rival climate change pact the Asia-Pacific Partnership (nicknamed as the anti-Kyoto by some environmentalists). Harper announces that he joined the Partnership in hopes of bridging the differences between the two groups and to coax the members to sign a new deal when the Kyoto Accord expires in 2012.
- September 25  
*Environment,  
Kyoto Accord  
Intensity targets*
- At a dinner attended by world leaders, Prime Minister Harper continued to campaign for the replacement of capping greenhouse emissions at specific levels with a system that measures success for reducing emissions leaders are far from striking a deal.

October 20

- 12 January  
*Federal politics,  
Border security*
- Minister of Public Safety, Stockwell Day, announces that the federal government will invest \$430 million over the next five years to fund new border security measures. The funding allows three key government initiatives – the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, eManifest, and Business Resumption and Partners in Protection to move forward.
- 22 January  
*Federal Politics,  
Housing and small  
Business support*
- Federal Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn announces plans to invest \$300 million over the next four years in order to offer homeowners and small businesses information and support to retrofit homes, buildings, and industrial processes.
- 24 January  
*Federal Politics,  
Federal Surplus*
- The federal government reveals that it ran a budget surplus of \$300 million in November, increasing its surplus since the start of the fiscal year in April to \$6.1 billion.
- 26 January  
*Federal politics,  
Arar settlement*
- Mahar Arar, infamously deported by U.S. authorities on faulty information provided by the Canadian government, wins the largest legal settlement of its kind in Canadian history. Arar will receive an official apology from the Prime Minister and an \$11.5 million compensation package from the federal government.
- 7 February  
*Federal politics,  
Citizen input*
- Minster of Finance Jim Flaherty launches an online consultation initiative to allow Canadians to participate in the development of the 2007 Federal Budget.
- 7 February  
*Federal politics,  
Accountability Act*
- President of the Treasury Board Vic Toews outlines new measures to toughen penalties for fraud offences involving tax-Accountability Act.
- 19 February  
*Federal politics,  
Funding for Canadians  
With disabilities*
- Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg announces an investment of \$223 million to help Canadians with disabilities develop skills and secure long-term employment.
- 22 February  
*Federal politics,  
Accountability and  
Lobbying Act*
- President of the Treasury Board Vic Toews announces another step to the implementation of the Federal Accountability Act by initiating a consultation process on the regulations necessary to implement the new Lobbying Act. The Lobbying Act would significantly increase government oversight of all lobbying activities.
- 18 March  
*Federal politics,  
Child benefit  
Program fraud*
- auditors for the Canada Revenue Agency report widespread fraud in its \$9 billion child-benefit program.

- 28 March  
*Federal politics,  
Plans and Priorities in  
The House of Commons*
- Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, tables the 2007 Reports on Plans and Priorities in the House of Commons. The report, made on behalf of 91 federal departments and agencies, details their strategic priorities, spending, performance measurement and expected results over a three year period. Further details can be found online at [http://www.tbssct.gc.ca/rpp/0708/menu\\_e.asp](http://www.tbssct.gc.ca/rpp/0708/menu_e.asp)
- 29 March  
*Federal politics,  
Public servants  
Disclosure Protection Act*
- Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, announces the implementation of the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act and an expansion of the Access to Information Act to Crown Corporations.
- 2 April  
*Federal politics,  
Airport Capital  
Assistance Program*
- The federal government announces that airports across Canada will receive close to \$33 million for 28 new projects to enhance passenger safety. The funding is part of the Government of -2008 Airports Capital Assistance Program.
- 3 April
- Minster of Transport, 0.05 5a
-



09 July

*Federal politics,  
Accountability Act,  
Conflict of Interest Act*

President of the Treasury Board Vic Toews announces the next phase in the implementation of the Federal Accountability Act with the coming into force of the Conflict of Interest Act. The Act will prohibit ministers from voting on matters related to their personal

- September 5 David Onley is sworn in as the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.  
*Federal politics,  
 Ontario, Lieutenant- Governor*
- September 10 the  
*Federal politics,  
 Election Canada,  
 Visual recognition* House of Commons today in his announcement that he will not require Muslim women to show their faces at a polling place. Maynard says that the current election law does not contain absolute visual recognition requirements and cites the fact that about 80 000 people voted by mail in the last federal election.
- September 13 Canadian Heritage Minister Josée Verner is criticized for her  
*Federal politics,  
 Federal funding for  
 Community festivals* announcement that the federal government will supply local communities with \$30 million annually for festivals. Critics claim this is tantamount to a Conservative sponsorship scandal.
- September 17 By-elections are held in three Quebec ridings today. The results see a win  
*Federal politics,  
 Federal by-election in  
 Quebec* for the Bloc Québécois in Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot, for the Conservative Party in Roberval-Lac-St. Jean, and for the New Democratic Party in Outremont.
- September 26 In Toronto, Prime Minister Harper announces that the government ran a  
*Federal politics,  
 Surplus  
 Tax rebate* larger surplus than they expected. He pledged to return \$725 million to voters as tax breaks. This rebate would amount to \$30-\$40 for each taxpayer. The surplus, however, led the Canadian Taxpayers Federation to argue that a \$14 billion surplus means that Canadians are over taxed. In defence, Harper suggested that his government, unlike the previous
- October 4 The Department of Finance announces that effective February 2008 the  
*Federal politics,  
 Bank of Canada* position of Governor of the Bank of Canada will be held by Mark Carney, a 42-year-old former investment banker from Fort Smith Northwest Territories.
- October 17 The Conservative government unveils its Speech from the Throne. The  
*Federal politics,*

December 19

*Federal politics,  
NFLD, Lieutenant-  
Governor appointment*

lieutenant-governor. Mr. Crosbie will assume his new position in February 2008.

## **Health**

11 January

*Heath,*

The federal government unveils a pilot project aimed at reducing wait times for child





- 17 January  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada Saskatchewan, Equalization Payments*  
Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty informs his Saskatchewan counterpart, Andrew Thomson, that the province should not expect any equalization money from Ottawa in the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Under current legislation, the federal government will distribute \$11.7 billion in equalization payments.
- 17 January  
*Intergovernmental Relations ,Canada Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Project*  
The federal government and the government of Saskatchewan announce a joint project to provide \$2.2 million to the Centenary Affordable Housing Program. The program will construct a total of forty-two new low-income apartment units in Regina.
- 31 January  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada B.C., Investment plan*  
The government of B.C. and the federal government announce a joint investment of \$2.8 million to help youth from rural and First Nations communities gain experience to develop careers in the  
stry.
- 13 February  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Education, Council of Ministers*  
Provincial Ministers of Education join with the federal government at the Council of Ministers of Education to reaffirm the importance of a strategic agenda for postsecondary education and skills training. The Council also commits itself to the findings
- 23 March  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada - B.C., federal aid*  
Federal Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn announces \$24.8 million in federal funding to help the province of B.C. fight a growing pine beetle infestation in its interior.
- 12 April  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Fisheries*  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Loyola Hearn announces a series of federal-provincial measures and investments to address current challenges facing Canadian fisheries, including \$61 million over three years to broaden fish stock management.
- 23 April  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Canada-Saskatchewan Northern Development Agreement*  
The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan agree to extend the five-year Canada-Saskatchewan Northern Development Agreement by one year to March 31, 2008. The agreement commits both governments to provide \$20 million for strategic projects supporting economic development in northern Saskatchewan.
- 15 May  
*Intergovernmental Relations, First*  
Prime Minister Stephen Harper reveals that he will meet with  
, and  
the coun

May 28

31 July

*Intergovernmental  
Relations, Canada,  
Ontario*

The Canada Revenue Agency and the Ontario Ministry of Revenue sign a Human Resources Agreement that represents a significant first step in the move towards federal a

- November 15  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Ontario Restructuring of the House of Commons*  
Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty condemns the reintroduction of federal legislation that would see a greater number of seats in the House of Commons given to British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario. The proposed change comes from the fact that federal ridings in those provinces are, on average, 30 000 to 40 000 people larger than in other provinces making their representation unequal. The Ontario Premier takes issue with the fact that under this new formula of representation Ontario will have 40.4% of the population of Canada by 2021 but only hold 35.6% of the seats in Parliament.
- December 21  
*Intergovernmental Relations, Equalization And Territorial payments*  
Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty confirms that Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing payments will increase by \$700 million reaching a combined total of \$15.9 billion the highest of such payments in Canadian history.

## **International Relations**

- 8 January  
*International Relations, Canadian Beef exports*  
The Government of Canada launches a challenge to multi-billion dollar U.S. farm subsidies at the World Trade Organization. The WTO complaint deals with the impact of these subsidies on Canadian beef exports.
- 21 February  
*International Relations, Mission in Afghanistan*  
NATO mission in Afghanistan until 2009. The announcement ends fears that Parliament could recall Canadian forces much earlier.
- 21 February  
*International Relations, Afghan prison conditions*  
Human rights groups petition the Federal Court of Canada to stop Canadian soldiers from handing enemy combatants captured in Afghanistan to the Afghani government amidst accusations of torture.
- 24 April  
*International Relations, Afghan prison conditions*  
Under mounting pressure from the federal opposition parties and human rights groups, the Conservative government announces that it has struck a deal which provides Canadian officials full access to Afghan jails to monitor prison conditions.
- 17 May  
*International Relations, Canada-U.S., International Traffic In Arms*  
Foreign Affairs Peter MacKay announce the signing of an arrangement between the Department of National Defence and the United States Department of State. The arrangement deals with the application of the International Traffic in Arms regulations.

03 July

*International Relations,  
Afghan mission,  
Federal funding*

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Helena Guergis announces over \$30 million in funds and projects to strengthen Canadian reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. The funds will be used to launch programs to train judges and prosecutors, establish Afghan National Police stations, and will enhance the presence of Correctional Services Canada in the country.

25 August

*International Relations,  
Afghan mission*

Minister of International Cooperation Bev Oda announces that Canada will boost its development commitment to Afghanistan by providing \$45 million in support of five key projects targeting health and community development.

September 3

- November 9  
*International Relations,  
China,  
Meeting cancelled*
- China cancels a long-planned meeting in Canada between high-level with the Dalai Lama last week. The cancellation of the Strategic Working Group worries some trade analysts who are concerned that Canada is
- November 19  
*International Relations,  
Funds for Bangladesh*
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maxime Bernier announces that Canada will provide up to \$3 million to Bangladesh to aid with reconstruction after Cyclone Sidr.
- November 29  
*International Relations,  
Canada Russia  
Bilateral agreement*
- The Government of Canada signs a bilateral agreement with Russia that strengthens economic cooperation with that country. The agreement will enhance relations in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, nuclear power, trade financing, and are also focused on the Arctic regions.
- December 14  
*International Relations,  
Burma economic  
sanctions*
- Foreign Affairs Minister economic sanctions against Burma entered into force as a result of the military coup that suspended democracy in the country in late August.
- December 15  
*International Relations,  
Funds for Bangladesh*
- The federal government announces that it is increasing aid to Bangladesh to \$4.2 million to help with reconstruction after Cyclone Sidr.

## **Labour**

- 11 January  
*Labour,  
Saskatchewan,  
Public-sector strikes*
- Public-sector strikes continue across Saskatchewan. In support of the strikes, 100 court workers in Regina walk off the job bringing -still.
- 9 February  
*Labour,  
CNR strike*
- A general strike at the Canadian National Railway begins, slowing the national train network to half-capacity and prompting a flurry of complaints from manufacturing and forestry industries.
- 20 February  
*Labour,  
CNR Strike*
- Negotiations continue to end the general strike at the Canadian National Railway, amid growing speculation that the federal government will intervene and declare the strike illegal.

22 February(ike)JTJETBT1 0 0 1 117.1rTf1 0 2(n)-5#BT11 117.1rTf1 /Py1i(ike)JTJETBT1 0/F1 12 Tf1 0 0 1 1

12 April



- 24 July  
*Municipalities,  
Federal Gas Tax  
Revenue*
- The municipality of Saint John will receive its first payment of \$2.5 million under the new Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues and the Provincial Gas Tax Transfer Top-up.
- 27 July  
*Municipalities,  
Canada, B.C.,  
Gas Tax Agreement*
- Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities Lawrence Cannon and B.C. Minister of Community Services Ida Chong announce the semi-annual installment of \$15.4 million in federal funding under the Gas Tax Agreement. The funding will be distributed to 161 local governments in B.C.
- 01 August  
*Municipalities,  
Federal funding  
Atlantic Canada*
- Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day announces more than \$1.4 million in funding for seven projects to help Atlantic Canadian communities with crime prevention.
- 21 August  
*Municipalities,  
Annual Conference of  
Municipalities*
- The annual conference of municipalities begins with Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announcing a \$935 million investment in municipal social programs to assist cash-strapped city councils in the province.
- December 10  
*Municipalities,  
Ottawa municipal  
Elections allegations*
- Ottawa Mayor related to his election victory. He allegedly attempted to bribe his opponent to drop out of last years municipal election. The hearing is to begin January 9, 2008.

## **Provincial Politics**

- 2 January  
*Provincial Politics,  
Ontario*
- Ontario Minister for Training, Colleges, and Universities Chris Bently announces an increase of \$1 billion to the training and employment services offered through Employment Ontario.
- 3 January  
*Provincial Politics,  
Manitoba,  
Tuition Tax Credit*
- The Government of Manitoba unveils a new initiative that will offer \$25 thousand in tuition tax credits to any college or university graduate who moves to the province beginning in the spring. The move is to prevent skilled graduates from leaving the province.
- 10 January  
*Provincial Politics,  
Manitoba,  
Government loans*
- accounts committee will be asked to investigate why it was denied key information about two controversial government loans.

17 January

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

- 18 May  
*Provincial Politics,  
Alberta and B.C.  
Economic ties*
- Alberta and B.C. announce that they will renew efforts to forge one cabinets meeting in Edmonton to discuss ways of strengthening economic ties between the two jurisdictions.
- 22 May  
*Provincial Politics,  
Manitoba provincial  
Election*
- a re-election in a landslide victory which sees the party secure a strong majority in the provincial legislature.
- 25 May

28 August

Three men, including a former top lieutenant in the Newp lieute

September 11  
*Senate,*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper becomes the first Canadian leader to

## **Supreme Court**

12 January  
*Supreme Court,*  
*Tax collection*

The Supreme Court of Canada rules that governments that collect taxes they are not entitled to must repay them. The ruling ends a financial loophole which had allowed municipal, provincial, and federal governments to keep the profits of ill-gotten tax collection.

June 28  
*Supreme Court,*  
*Tobacco case*

The Supreme Court of Canada renders a landmark decision in the constitutional challenge to the federal Tobacco Act. The Court upheld the entirety of the 1997 law, refuting claims that restrictions on sponsorship promotion and advertising of tobacco products are unconstitutional.

November 13  
*Ontario Court of Appeal,*  
*Freedom of the Press*

The Ontario Court of Appeal rules unanimously that reporters are able to publish contentious allegations that benefit the public. With this decision, the Court indicated that the reputation of an individual does not trump the  
- journalism must be practised responsibly.