

Canada



With provincial party politics turning deadly in 2012, the atmosphere a year later and across Canada remained sombre as a bout of self-inflicted malfeasance threatened the existence of an entire body of federal lawmakers. An expenses scandal among Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) members in the Senate – amid an ongoing investigation into charges of voter-suppression by the CPC in the 2011 general election – reached to the offices of Prime Minister Steven Harper, leading to calls in some quarters for the permanent dissolution of the unelected upper house of the country’s bicameral legislature.

The rot didn’t stop in Ottawa, as corruption took on Hollywood overtones at the level of provincial governments. In French-speaking Quebec – where an election-celebration shooting in September 2012 left one man dead and another critically injured – a probe into bid-rigging government-funded construction contracts claimed political casualties. And in Ontario, the first order of business for the

first openly gay provincial prime minister was to deal with the fallout from influence-peddling by fellow provincial representatives of the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) in the siting of a gas-fired power plant.

Coupled with this were the high-profile antics of Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, whose filmed use of what was alleged to be crack cocaine became the stuff of viral Internet videos, and Harper’s decision to reshuffle his cabinet at mid-2013. Mr Harper also invoked parliamentary rules to extend the summer recess into October, a move that both blunted criticism from opposition MPs and positioned the government for a 2015 re-election bid. Canadians of all party stripes are losing faith in the country’s political class, with pundits using terms like ‘serial impropriety’ and ‘moral wasteland’ to underscore the observation.

Tragic likeness

The shooting that killed hired technician Denis Blanchette and the fire that followed outside the victory celebration of

KEY FACTS

Official name: Canada

Head of State: Queen Elizabeth II (since 1952), represented by Governor General David Johnston (from 1 Oct 2010)

(since 27 Sep 2005)
Head of government: Prime Minister Stephen Harper (from 2006; re-elected 2 May 2011)

Ruling party: Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) (from 2006; re-elected 2 May 2011)

Area: 9,976,139 square km

Population: 34.83 million (2012)

Capital: Ottawa

Official language: English, French

Currency: Canadian dollar (C\$) = 100 cents

Exchange rate: C\$1.03 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$52,232 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 1.80% (2012)*

GDP: US\$1,819.08 billion (2012)*

Labour force: 18.86 million (2012)*

Unemployment: 7.29% (2012)*

Inflation: 1.52% (2012)*

Oil production: 3.74 million bpd (2012)

Natural gas production: 156.50 billion cum (2012)

Balance of trade: -US\$12.03 billion (2012)*

* estimated figure

Pauline Marois' Parti Québécois (PQ) at a Montreal nightclub in September 2012 thrust an already troubling political landscape into an uncomfortable light from where it veered little over the ensuing 12 months. Marois, the first female premier in Quebec's history, interpreted the work of the lone gunman – Richard Henry Bain – as an attempt on her life. The 62-year-old fishing-lodge owner from the Laurentians region in south-western Quebec, who claims that God made him the instrument to end Separatism, would come to represent popular disaffection in violent caricature.

In November 2012, a Senate committee began looking into expense claims of members including CPC appointees Patrick Brazeau and Mike Duffy, both of whom were found along with LPC Senator Mac Harb in an audit the previous June to have submitted insufficient documentation for charges to the government for housing and travel. Despite being Senators and constitutionally bound to reside in the districts they serve, the Conservative-dominated committee found that rules were unclear. Still, it forced the senators to repay their questionable claims.

Both Brazeau – who claimed back trips to an address in his Quebec constituency listed as his primary residence despite maintaining a home less than 100km for the national capital – and Harb – who also resides near Ottawa and did the same in the Ontario district he serves – appealed

the decisions. Brazeau's refusal to repay the claims saw him relinquish his party affiliation and in March he left the Senate under the cloud of a sex-assault charge. Harb retired in June 2013, ending a 25-year political career.

Duffy, a former journalist appointed by Harper to represent Prince Edward Island in 2008, was found not to receive a tax credit for the cottage he maintains there. Despite three decades spent covering parliament in Ottawa, Duffy was reimbursed more than C\$90,000 (US\$87,400) for local living expenses.

Nigel Wright, Harper's chief of staff, in February 2013 was found to have made clandestine arrangements to supply Duffy the cash to make good the disputed claims. While Harper denied knowing about the payment in May 2013, the month that saw Duffy quit the CPC Senate caucus and Wright resign his position, a subsequent investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) found that senior party officials had been briefed at the time of the transfer.

Senator Pamela Wallin, another former journalist appointed by Harper, also quit the caucus after the probe widened in February 2013. Wallin (the Senate's second-leading claimant with almost C\$370,000 (US\$360,000) in reimbursements from 2010–12) was found to have regularly claimed expenses for trips to her Saskatchewan constituency that routed through Toronto, where she also keeps a home.

In addition, the audit found Wallin had charged trips for non-government business, including to meetings of company boards on which she sits and for which she had received compensation in pay and stock options worth some C\$1 million (US\$970,000) since becoming a senator in 2009. An independent audit in August 2013 found that Wallin had inappropriately claimed more than C\$121,000 (US\$117,500) in the 24-month period under examination; she reimbursed the government the following month.

Patterns of force

The Senate expenses scandal came amid deepening investigations into voter suppression by the CPC during the May 2011 general election that provided Harper with a parliamentary majority. Dubbed 'Robocall' shortly after it broke in February 2012 for the automatic dialling service that was employed in the Ontario university town of Guelph to direct LPC voters to non-existent polling stations on election day, the scandal grew to embrace some 200 districts nation-wide, according to government regulatory agency Elections Canada.

Calls placed to the Alberta service, later found to have an exclusive contract with the CPC, from a Quebec dialling code instructed the system to contact voters from a party list of known LPC supporters. Showing in Guelph, some 90km west of Toronto, as originating from the campaign headquarters of an LPC candidate, the calls that went out election morning directed voters away from their normal polling places, citing expected overflows.

Following the revelation of what initially was labelled a local occurrence, Elections Canada reported in March that it had received similar complaints from voters around the country and in March 2012 began an investigation. Phone and credit-card records traced the execution order to a 'Pierre Poutine' – whose surname is that given to a traditional French-Canadian dish of French Fries, brown gravy and cottage cheese – though a subsequent search turned up no such person.

Using phone records, investigators found considerable telephone traffic before and after the election between the Alberta company, called RackNine, and the Guelph office of parliamentary candidate Marty Burke. The CPC's Burke failed to unseat incumbent LPC MP Frank Valeriote, whose office number showed up as the source of the fraudulent calls.

Investigators implicated Burke campaign staffers, including former

KEY INDICATORS

Canada

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	33.28	33.68	34.07	34.44	*34.83
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	1,511.00	1,336.40	1,577.10	1,736.90	*1,819.08
GDP per capita	US\$	45,428	39,669	46,283	50,436	*52,232
GDP real growth	%	0.7	-2.8	3.2	2.5	*1.8
Inflation	%	2.4	0.3	1.8	2.9	*1.5
Unemployment	%	6.1	8.3	8.0	8.1	*7.3
Oil output	'000 bpd	3,238.0	3,212.0	3,336.0	3,522.0	3,741.0
Natural gas output	bn cum	175.2	161.4	159.8	160.5	156.5
Coal output	mtoe	36.0	32.8	34.9	35.6	35.2
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	462,682.0	324,682.0	393,183.0	462,905.0	462,883.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	398,982.0	328,928.0	401,865.0	460,739.0	474,911.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	63,700.0	-4,246.0	-8,682.0	2,166.0	-12,028.0
Current account	US\$m	1,788.0	-40,588.0	-58,414.0	-52,846.0	*-66,999.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	43,778.0	54,238.0	59,998.0	63,060.0	68,365.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	41,537.0	42,602.0	44,888.0	49,859.0	55,243.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	1.07	1.14	1.03	0.94	0.99

* estimated figure

communications director Michael Sona, who denied involvement. However, in April 2013, Sona was charged by the Public Prosecution Service, a federal agency, with attempting to prevent voters in Guelph from casting ballots.

While other CPC staffers are said to have knowledge of the plot, the regulator noted that most have been unco-operative. Nevertheless, court documents made public in August 2013 link Burke campaign staffers with instructions given to the RackNine service for election-day calls made to Guelph voters. Sona's case had yet to go to trial in October 2013.

In the interim, it emerged that Elections Canada had received numerous calls about irregularities dating back to the 2 May 2011 poll. They ranged from unregistered voters casting ballots to registered voters casting ballots in other than their home districts to cases of registered voters casting more than one ballot, some of which affected the outcome of narrowly contested races.

CPC campaign financing came under scrutiny, as did party election tactics. A university professor from British Columbia said he attended a 2010 session organised by a CPC campaign consultancy in which officials advocated 'robo-calling' and other voter-suppression techniques borrowed from the Republican Party in the US. The allegation was later withdrawn, reportedly under threat of litigation.

Scratching the surface

Allegations of improprieties involving the finances of both the CPC and LPC were among the issues being probed in Quebec, where a corruption investigation into contracts for construction work at both provincial and municipal level was given an extended deadline to 2015. The Commission of Inquiry on the Awarding and Management of Public Contracts in the Construction Industry (the so-called Charbonneau Commission) was empanelled in October 2011 by former LPC provincial Premier Jean Charest, led by Superior Court judge France Charbonneau.

There was growing popular and political pressure resulting from a leaked provincial anti-corruption agency report that said collusion was apparent and cost-over-runs were commonplace in the road-building and highway maintenance contracts it had examined. The Charbonneau Commission was charged with reviewing the management of public tenders, as well as to look for the presence

of organised crime among other irregularities.

The commission's inquiry commenced in May 2012, with the former head of the anti-corruption agency, Jacques Duchesneau, alleging that political parties in the province derived the bulk of their funding from illegal sources. In August, it hired investigative journalist Andre Noel – who had covered provincial politics and wrote a book examining mob ties to the government via legitimate businesses – to assist in the fact-finding.

After a summer recess, the commission began claiming victims. Among the first was Gilles Vaillancourt, the LPC mayor of Laval, who was named by former construction company owner Lino Zambito in October 2012 as overseeing a system of kickbacks for work secured from the province's third-largest municipality. Less than three weeks later and after anti-corruption agency investigators raided his home and several departmental offices, the long-serving Vaillancourt tendered his resignation in early November.

Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay quit the same week, saying that he'd fought the patronage system revealed by the Charbonneau Commission that had existed for more than a dozen years before he took office in 2001. He also denied allegations by an insider that his Union Montreal party operated a slush fund of proceeds from kickbacks.

Commissioners heard from Joe Pistone, the former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) informant whose deep-cover experience was portrayed by Johnny Depp in the film *Donnie Brasco*, who described the ways that organised crime influenced companies and contract bids.

Federal funnelling

Long-time departmental engineers described schemes that saw them sign off on cost over-runs in exchange for contributions to political parties, among them to government ministers from Charest's provincial LPC. A Canadian Press Association review of campaign finance records placed the amount donated to federal candidates from leading parties at C\$2 million (US\$1.9 million).

As an example, the association cited a CPC candidate bidding to unseat an LPC MP in a safe Quebec constituency as a recipient of campaign donations from employees of firms that stood to benefit from a 2009 economic stimulus package approved by the majority Harper government. The candidate received almost five

times the C\$57,000 in donations raised in Harper's district, in suburban Calgary.

Coupled with the fallout from a May 2012 crackdown on students protesting a hike in tuition fees at provincial seats of higher learning, the steady stream of incriminating testimony emanating from the commission hearings did little to bolster Charest's 2012 re-election bid. Not only did the PQ regain control of provincial government from the LPC, Charest lost his hometown Sherbrooke seat and resigned as provincial party leader in September 2012.

At the same time, the Charbonneau commission saw its deadline for taking testimony extended into 2014. Initially planned for completion in October 2013, the commission now has until April 2015 to deliver its report.

Powerful arguments

In Ontario, a long-running saga over a proposed gas-fired power plant cost provincial Liberals a parliamentary majority and saw Prime Minister Duncan McQuinty give way in February 2013, after nine years in power, to deputy Kathleen Wynne. It also continues to pile up costs, with taxpayers on the hook for as much as C\$600 million (US\$582 million) for the twice-relocated plant that was twice moved in order to secure seats for the LPC.

Wynne, who became premier after McQuinty shutdown the parliament in October 2012 – a tactic called 'prorogation' and permitted under the Canadian electoral system – admitted in February 2013 that the decision to re-site the plant was politically motivated. A former cabinet minister, Wynne is Canada's first openly gay head of provincial government.

Party leadership sought to preserve seats in the face of popular opposition to the plant – at one point featuring an appearance by environmental campaigner Erin Brockovitch, the subject of an eponymous big-screen biopic – in the communities of Mississauga and Oakville. In both cases, McQuinty (while still premier) and his energy minister, Christopher Bentley – who retired from politics in February 2013 – had downplayed costs and delayed the release of reams of public documents, even as EIG Management, the company charged with building the Mississauga plant, filed a C\$300 million (US\$291 million) lawsuit for lost revenues.

Meanwhile, the Ontario Power Authority, the provincial utility operator, said at a March 2013 hearing that the cost to cancel the plant at the Oakville site would likely

reach C\$310 million (US\$301 million), well above a C\$40 million (US\$38.8 million) initial estimate. The provincial auditor's office in April 2013 released a report on the Mississauga plant that placed the cost for cancellation at C\$285 million (US\$293 million).

Municipal madness

In Toronto, the Ontario provincial capital, the political and behavioural irregularities of Mayor Rob Ford are of a more public nature. The former city councillor, elected in 2010, set the internet alight in May 2013 when a Toronto newspaper and a US website both said they have seen a video of Ford smoking what was purported to be crack cocaine.

The producer reportedly sought a six-figure pay-out for the clip, recorded on a cellular telephone in the mayor's suburban neighbourhood. And while the *Toronto Star* newspaper, whose reporters had viewed the film, refused to pay, editors from the Gawker.com website began raising funds from readers in a campaign it dubbed 'crackstarter', a take-off on the name of an internet crowd-funding site called Kickstarter.com.

For Ford, an independent with Conservative party ties, the rumours of substance abuse were the latest in a string of allegations dating back to 1999, when it came to light in a council election campaign that Ford had been charged with drink-driving and marijuana possession while vacationing in Florida. True to form, and as he's done in incidents ranging from his drunken appearances (and in the case of an ice-hockey game, his removal) from public events and charges by several colleagues and political opponents of cocaine abuse, Ford denied that he was the subject of the video.

In his time as an elected official, Ford has been filmed making derogatory comments about the homeless, bicyclists, media members that he claims are out to get him and about his political opponents. He's also earned notoriety for racist comments and been the subject of charges that he used city resources to raise funds for his sports foundation despite campaigning on a platform to fight waste in government.

While the fate of the video, allegedly shot by a gang member, was the subject of continued speculation through the summer of 2013, opinion polls taken before and after the revelation of its existence show the mayor maintaining his popularity with voters. Nevertheless, he fired his chief of staff, Mark Towhey, in late May

and had him forcibly removed from City Hall after Towhey suggested that Ford confront his substance abuse problem.

Several other senior staffers also left the Mayor's office in the wake of the scandal. Meanwhile, officials from Campaign Research, the Conservative consultancy that guided Ford's 2010 campaign, said they would not work on a 2014 mayoral re-election bid unless the mayor sought help. Following a drunken appearance at a public event in August 2013, a film of which made the rounds of social media, Ford admitted copious marijuana use prior to his time in public office. At the time, his approval rating stood at around 50 per cent.

At the behest of the Mayor's office, the Ontario Press Council launched an inquiry in September 2013 to examine the reporting of both the *Toronto Star* and *Toronto Globe and Mail* newspapers in the case. An investigation by Toronto Police, who are said to be in possession of the device containing the video and whom media outlets are petitioning for its release, was ongoing entering the fourth quarter of 2013.

Pushing reset

The plights of municipal and provincial politicians was not lost on Ottawa, where Harper marked his seventh year as prime minister in 2013. Mid-way through a five-year term that began after early elections in 2011, and with the CPC mired in the Senate expenses scandal that has engulfed several of his appointees, Harper opted to end the current parliamentary session during the summer recess and to reshuffle his cabinet.

Invoking the prime minister's right to prorogation, Harper pushed back the re-calling of parliament until mid-October 2013, and bought himself six weeks of respite from opposition party criticism. Ending the session amid a two-and-a-half-month summer layoff enabled Harper to create a fresh platform for the final two years of his majority mandate and by doing so wrong-foot the opposition until that platform is delivered in the so-called 'speech from the throne' closer to the end of 2013.

While on a summer tour of western provinces and northern territories, Harper lauded his government's successes, which include making good on around 80 per cent of the more than 100 promises contained in the CPC's 2011 election manifesto. He told the party faithful at a British Columbia barbecue in September 2013 that CPC policies were responsible for a

fast-growing Canadian economy, as well as domestic spending reform that would produce a balanced budget in 2015.

Since the recession in 2009, the country has achieved an average rate of growth in excess of 2.4 per cent. In the wake of strong first quarter results, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said at mid-year that it expects the Canadian economy to grow by 1.7 per cent in 2013, matching the 2012 rate, before accelerating to 2.2 per cent in 2014 and again in 2015, when elections for the federal parliament are next scheduled.

In a speech repeated around the country during what for the Prime Minister has become a summer travel ritual, Harper said that since the 2009 recession, the Canadian economy has added a million new jobs. He touted his record on urban renewal and the expansion of tax credits for charitable donations and for in-home elder-care.

Harper said that the CPC's parliamentary majority had enabled legislative gains on immigration, employment and criminal justice issues ranging from gang violence to the ending of concurrent sentencing for paedophiles. And, as if to nod at the malfeasance apparent at all levels of government, he stressed his government's success in implementing a federal pension overhaul that makes MPs liable for their retirement-savings contributions.

Mr Harper launched his mid-term reboot with a cabinet shuffle in July 2013. In addition to youthful backbenchers, he elevated the number of women in ministerial positions to 13, equalling the count of predecessor Paul Martin's LPC-led government in 2004.

However, and as if to underscore his CPC-majority successes, ministers closest to executive policy kept their posts. They included long-time finance minister, Jim Flaherty, foreign affairs minister John Baird, trade minister Edward Fast and resources minister Joe Oliver. Also remaining in office is Tony Clement, president of the departmental Treasury Board, which lists accountability and ethics as areas of responsibility, in addition to regulation and the financial function of comptroller.

Half-time strategy

With 19 bills still in parliamentary committee and Harper's avowed summer commitment to make good on promises that remain unfulfilled in the CPC's election platform, analysts speculated that the decision to suspend the session, taken in mid-August 2013, was politically motivated. They pointed to past deployment,

in Harper's CPC-led minority government, where the tactic has proved politically useful, even if it did generate popular unrest.

Following elections in 2008, Harper invoked the privilege after less than a month amid the machinations of Liberals and New Democrat politicians who sought to topple a CPC-led coalition and form their own government without calling another election. With criticism rising over his government's handling of terrorism suspects, he did so again at the end of 2009.

However, unlike those instances, the prime minister had indicated for some time his intention for a restatement of purpose. Under rules governing prorogation, legislation currently in the approvals pipeline is terminated, apart from private members bills introduced by back bench MPs of any party, which remain active.

Still, Harper may move to restore bills, including one that sets term limits for Senators. In addition to the fate of the house – and with critics calling for its abolition in the wake of the expenses scandal – the prime minister is expected to focus on several themes over the course of 2014. They include labour-market reforms that are aimed at making the country more competitive, including reforms that permit a greater influx of skilled workers from abroad. And the creation of new grant programmes for job training and to assist aboriginal Canadians to find work.

Aided by an expected upturn in the global economy and its knock-on effects in the domestic market, the prime minister is betting re-election on presentation of a balanced budget. Citing his government's record, analysts say the theme is one of promises made being promises kept. However opportunistic it may be, it appears a winning strategy. For an electorate that is inured to corruption, accomplishing one's political objectives is tantamount to telling the truth.

Risk assessment

Politics	Good
Economy	Good
Regional stability	Good/fair

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1497 John Cabot claimed Newfoundland for Henry VII of England.

1534 Jacques Cartier explored Newfoundland and charted the Gulf of St Lawrence as far as what is now Québec city and Montréal. He claimed this land for France.

1600 King Henry IV of France granted fur trading rights in the Gulf of St Lawrence to a group of French merchants. The French settled in Acadia – the Canadian maritime provinces of what are now New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

1608 Founding of Québec as France's first colony by Samuel Champlain.

1629 Québec city was captured by the English fleet.

1632 Québec was returned to France by the treaty of St Germain-en-Laye.

1642 Founding of Ville Marie, which later became Montréal.

1660 The English Navigation Act prohibited foreigners from trading with English colonies.

1663 Louis XIV assumed personal control of the French settlements that included Québec, Montréal, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the area around the Gulf of St Lawrence and called this *Nouvelle France* (New France). Québec became a royal province.

1665 Jean Talon came from France to administer colonial affairs and brought about a significant expansion of the colony, encouraging agriculture, arts and business, stimulating immigration. By this time, the English, fighting for territorial dominance, controlled 10 colonies on the Atlantic coast and exceeded New France in terms of population and self-sufficiency.

1670 In competition with the French, the English established the Hudson Bay Company, giving themselves a monopoly on the fur trade in the Hudson Bay area.

1702 Queen Anne's War broke out between the English and the French. This led to the capture of Port Royal (capital of Acadia) by the English.

1713 Peace was established under the Treaty of Utrecht. This required France to surrender the Hudson Bay Area, Newfoundland and Acadia to Britain. France was permitted to keep Cape Breton Island and her inland colonies.

1754 The French and Indian War began in North America; it became the Seven Years War when fighting spread to Europe.

1755–56 The British attacked Québec, the nerve-centre of the French empire. Québec came under British rule.

1759 Montréal, cut off from reinforcements and supplies from France, fell to the British.

1774 Britain passed the Québec Act, which officially recognised French civil law and granted religious freedom to Roman Catholics. Britain assumed full control of the North Atlantic provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

1858 British Columbia became a Crown Colony.

1862 The British withdrew troops from Canada.

1867 Ontario, Québec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick joined together under the terms of the British North America Act to become the Dominion of Canada. These four territories became provinces with their own governments, law making bodies and lieutenant governors.

1870 Manitoba joined the Dominion, followed by British Columbia and Prince Edward Island. Hudson Bay became part of Canada and was renamed the Northwest Territories.

1898 The territory of Yukon was carved out of the Northwest Territories and entered the Dominion. The Territories, unlike the provinces that existed within their own right, were subject to federal legislative power. The federal government had the right to intrude in administrative and social affairs.

1905 Alberta and Saskatchewan became provinces of Canada.

1914–18 Canada joined the allies in the First World War.

1931 The Statute of Westminster was passed by the British parliament, granting dominion parliaments the right to reject the laws of the British parliament and allowing British dominions, including Canada, complete autonomy. Canada became a free associate of the British Commonwealth of Nations, but had to swear allegiance to the British Crown.

1939–45 Canada joined the allies against Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan in the Second World War.

1949 Newfoundland became Canada's tenth province.

1969 Canada recognised English and French as its two official languages.

1977 Following an amendment to the Citizenship Act, Canadians ceased to be British subjects.

1980 A referendum to make Québec a separate country was rejected by the people of Québec.

1982 The Constitution Act stated that Canada no longer required British approval for new laws.

1995 The Canadian parliament passed a resolution recognising Québec as a distinct society within Canada. A referendum in Québec produced another 'no' vote for independence.

1999 Nunavut, created out of part of the Northwest Territories, became Canada's third territory.

2000 Jean Chrétien called snap elections, in which the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) took 40.8 per cent of the vote, winning 172 seats.

2001 Québec's premier, Lucien Bouchard, resigned. Bernard Landry took over the post. Canada became the first country to legalise cannabis for people

suffering from chronic medical conditions and terminal illnesses.

2002 Jean Chrétien announced he would resign in 2004.

2003 Toronto was seriously hit by an outbreak of the flu-like Sars virus. A power blackout – the biggest in North American history – hit Toronto, Ottawa and other parts of Ontario, as well as cities in the north-eastern US. Paul Martin took over as prime minister after Jean Chrétien's retirement.

2004 The ruling LPC won the parliamentary elections, but lost its majority.

2005 Haitian-born Michaëlle Jean was appointed as Governor General (GG).

2006 The Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) won elections but without an overall majority. Parliament approved the recognition of Quebec as a nation within a united Canada.

2007 Increased melting ice in Arctic waters opened the Northwest Passage between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, which become navigable during summer months. Canada asserted its territorial rights to manage the waterway ahead of any international recognition of its control.

2008 Prime Minister Harper dissolved parliament and called early parliamentary elections. The ruling CPC increased its share of the vote and its number of seats with 37.63 per cent and 143 seats (out of 308). However the total was less than the 155 seats necessary to achieve a majority. Stephen Harper remained in post as prime minister of a minority government.

2009 Canada imposed visa controls on visitors from Czech Republic and Mexico; there had been a disproportionate rise in asylum requests from the two countries. Parliament was prorogued for two months, conveniently while the winter Olympic Games took place in Vancouver. This was the second time Prime Minister Harper had employed this device to avoid critical parliamentary motions; this closure stalled attempts by parliament to force the government to release uncensored documents concerning torture of Afghan detainees.

2010 Parliament reopened. A ruling by the Speaker of the House of Commons declared that the documents concerning Afghan detainees must be released or the government risked contempt of parliament. A parliamentary committee was formed and having taken an oath of confidentiality was allowed to review uncensored documents, to determine which, without threatening national security, would go forward for possible public release. David Johnston took up his appointment as the governor general.

2011 In March, Canada joined in a five-country coalition (France, Italy, the UK and the US) to impose a no-fly zone

over Libya. Three opposition parties rejected the budget. The minority government of Steven Harper fell on 25 March following a parliamentary vote of no confidence. New, early elections took place in May. The Conservatives won a decisive majority with 39.62 per cent of the vote (167 seats out of 308) giving Prime Minister Harper a clear majority. The New Democratic Party (Nouveau Parti Démocratique) (NDP) boosted their standing by winning 102 seats (up from 36 seats in 2008). The leaders of the Liberal Party, Michael Ignatieff and Bloc Québécois, Gilles Duceppe, quit their chairmanships following their defeat in the polls. Canada began to withdraw its combat troops from Afghanistan in July. On 25 July the leader of the NDP, Jack Layton, announced he was stepping down to receive treatment for cancer; he died on 22 August. During the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit, in October, the 16 countries in which the British monarch is Head of State unanimously agreed to change the royal line of succession from that of first born son to the first born child (regardless of its gender). The change will be enacted after the succession of Prince William (currently second in line to the throne, after his father Prince Charles).

2012 Minting of the Canadian penny (one cent piece) was stopped as part of the government's March budget as the cost of producing them was greater than their face value. The budget recommended that cash transactions be rounded up to the nearest five cents although card transactions were to remain specific. On 19 June Canada was invited by US President Obama to join the negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) (of nine existing member countries), a free trade market of over 500 million people in Asia, Oceania and Americas. 2013 On 7 October Prime Minister Harper confirmed that he would not be attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Sri Lanka in protest over alleged human rights abuses. He also said that Canada would be reviewing the financial support it gives the Commonwealth.

Political structure

Constitution

Although Canada is formally a constitutional monarchy with the British monarch as the nominal head of state, for all practical purposes the country is a sovereign state. The governor general is the Queen's representative in Canada. The Canadian government has a federal structure, with 10 provincial governments plus the three northern territories of the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut

on the lower tier and a national government on the upper tier.

The constitution is contained in the Constitution Act of 1982, although the province of Québec did not agree to this legislation. The division of power between the national and provincial governments is set out in the constitution which also contains a Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The federal government has authority over areas of national interest, while provincial governments have specific authority over local matters, including education, hospitals and public lands (including natural resources). The provinces exercise considerable autonomy over their affairs. Each province has an elected legislature together with an executive led by a provincial premier.

All Canadian citizens aged 18 years and over have the right to vote.

Form of state

Constitutional monarchy

The executive

The executive comprises the prime minister, appointed by the governor general, and his cabinet. The prime minister is the leader of the majority party in the House of Commons; the cabinet is also drawn from the ruling party's ranks.

National legislature

The House of Commons (lower legislature) does not have a fixed number of members, seats are apportioned based on the constitution. Seats are distributed among the provinces and reflect their population, however the provinces are also entitled to as many lower house seats as they have in the Senate and are entitled to as many seats as they had in 1976 or 1985, thus the current house has 308 sitting members. Members of the House of Commons sit for a maximum of five years and may be re-elected any number of times.

The Senate is a chamber of appointed members representing different political parties. The Governor General appoints members for a life-term, based on the recommendation of the prime minister. Seats are allocated to provide each province with equal representation. Over 50 per cent of membership is allocated to less-populated parts of the country to provide a balance of views. Senate tenure is guaranteed until aged 75. The Senate is a chamber of review whereby all legislatures must be passed before it for enactment. Legislature may be proposed by the Senate as long as it does not incur revenue collection.

Legal system

Based on English common law, except in Québec, where a French civil law system prevails.

The prime minister, through the governor general, appoints all judges to the federal

courts, but not those to the provincial courts. Apart from this, the judiciary is independent of the executive. The Supreme Court of Canada is the highest court of appeal in both civil and criminal cases.

Each province has its own court structure, headed by a provincial Supreme Court.

Last elections

2 May 2011 (parliamentary)

Results: Parliamentary: Conservative Party (Conservatives) won 39.62 per cent of the vote (167 seats out of 308), New Democratic Party (NDP) 30.63 per cent (102), Liberal Party 18.91 per cent (34), Bloc Québécois 6.04 per cent (four), Green Party 3.91 per cent (one); 13 political parties and two independent candidates each won less than 1 per cent and failed to win any seats. Turnout was estimated at 61.4 per cent.

Next elections

2015 (parliamentary)

Political parties

Ruling party

Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) (from 2006; re-elected 2 May 2011)

Main opposition party

New Democratic Party (Nouveau Parti Démocratique) (NDP)

Population

34.83 million (2012)

Last census: 16 May 2006: 31,612,897

Population density: Three inhabitants per square km. Urban population 81 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 1.0 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

British and Irish origin (28 per cent), French origin (23 per cent), other European origin (15 per cent), indigenous (2 per cent), other (including Asian, African, Arab) (6 per cent), mixed background (26 per cent).

In 2002, about 52 per cent of immigrants settled in Toronto, 15 per cent in Vancouver and 11 per cent in Montréal; the populations of many rural areas are declining.

Religions

Christianity is the prevailing religion in Canada. Approximately 45 per cent of the population belong to the Roman Catholic Church. The leading Protestant churches are the Anglican Church of Canada and the United Church of Canada. Orthodox Churches are also represented. Jews make up 1.2 per cent of the population and Muslims just under 1 per cent.

Education

Public investment in education amounts to 5.5 per cent of GDP. Universal primary education and gender parity, at this level and in secondary schools, have been achieved. Although methods of funding

higher education vary from province to province, the federal and provincial governments fund approximately 85 per cent of the expenditure. Total government spending on education in 2002/03 amounted to C\$25 billion (US\$39 billion). Canada has strong initiatives to monitor and detect inequities in schooling across the provinces. There is stiff entrance exams for teaching courses and extensive in-service training for qualified teachers, which affords them high status in the community.

Each province is responsible for its own education system. In general, education is provided free of charge to the end of the secondary level. The number of private schools is small, except in the province of Québec. Levels of educational attainment continue to rise, with record numbers attending university. However, enrolments at elementary and secondary schools have steadily declined since the late 1960s, reflecting the decline in both the birth rate and the number of new immigrants.

The proportion of young people attending full-time university and college courses continues to expand, while part-time higher education courses for mature students are becoming increasingly popular. Canada has over 80 universities and 160 community and technical colleges, as well as 35 colleges of religious study.

Education services for indigenous students are an area of responsibility that is not clearly defined between provincial, territorial and federal government, who along with various local authorities have come up with different plans. There has been a rapid development of non-formal educational programmes, provided by non-governmental organisations. Citizenship education is a subject of renewed interest in the education curriculum.

Enrolment rate: 100 per cent total gross primary enrolment; 107 per cent boys, 106 per cent girls, gross secondary enrolment of relevant age groups (including repeaters) (Unesco).

Pupils per teacher: 16 in primary schools.

Health

Private expenditure averages 29 per cent of GDP, 39 per cent of which is funded by prepaid health plans and 52 per cent in out-of-pockets expenses.

Nationwide state-sponsored health insurance is achieved through a series of interlocking provincial plans, with the federal government providing substantial financial support through national Hospital Insurance and Medical Care Programmes. The insurance programmes are designed to ensure that all residents have access to medical services as needed. Most

hospitals are run by non-profit, non-governmental, corporations.

HIV/Aids

In 2009 there were an estimated 68,000 adults living with HIV.

HIV prevalence: 0.3 per cent aged 15–49 in 2009 (Unicef 2012)

Life expectancy: 81 years, 2010 (Unicef 2012)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 1.7 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef 2012)

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 5 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Head of population per physician: 2.14 physicians per 1,000 people, 2003 (WHO 2006)

Welfare

Canada has a comprehensive welfare system, which is administered at both federal and provincial levels of government. The system provides for social assistance, old age pensions, family allowances and unemployment insurance. Family allowances are credited for dependent children up to the age of 18.

Social assistance or welfare is the income programme of last resort in Canada. It helps people in need who are not eligible for other benefits. Benefit payments help pay for food, shelter and other health services.

The federal government provides monthly payments to parents or guardians on behalf of children under the age of 18, through a programme called the Child Tax Benefit. The amount is different according to family income, number of children and their ages. Successive federal governments have moved to target their financial support to families at the lower end of the income spectrum.

Pensions

In March 2012, it was announced that the age at which citizens would be eligible for the old age security (OAS) benefit on retirement would increase by one year to aged 67 years, from 2023. However those Canadians who were above the age of 54 year in March 2012 would not be affected by the new ruling and retirement remained at 66.

There are essentially two social security programmes aimed at providing income for the elderly in Canada.

The OAS pension is given to people aged 66 and over, who meet residence requirements. Those who have little or no other income are eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). People who have lived in Canada for less than 40 years receive a reduced pension.

The Canada and Québec Pension Plans are a form of insurance into which people must contribute during their working years

to receive monthly payments starting at age 66. These plans also include survivor's pensions for the spouses of deceased pensioners, disability pensions and children's and death benefits.

Main cities

Ottawa (capital, estimated population 945,438 in 2012), Toronto (5.2 million (m)), Montréal (3.4m), Vancouver (2.2m), Calgary (1.1m), Edmonton (979,504), Québec (703,415), Winnipeg (676,399), Hamilton (674,915).

Languages spoken

English is spoken by 61 per cent of the population, French by 26 per cent and both languages by 13 per cent. French predominates in the province of Québec (Montréal is the second largest French-speaking city in the world). A wide variety of other languages are spoken, reflecting the diverse origins of Canada's population.

Official language/s

English, French

Media

Press

Nearly all cities have at least one daily newspaper, and there is likely to be a tabloid if there is more than one on offer. The bilingual cities of Montreal and Ottawa offer newspapers in both English and French.

Dailies: The only national newspapers are the *National Post* (www.nationalpost.com) and *Globe and Mail* (www.theglobeandmail.com). The newspapers with the highest circulation include *Toronto Star* (www.thestar.com), *The Toronto Sun* (www.torontosun.com) a tabloid, *Vancouver Sun* (www.canada.com) and *The Gazette* (www.canada.com) from Montreal, and in French *Le Journal de Montréal* (www.canoe.com), and *La Presse* (www.cyberpresse.ca).

Weeklies: There are numerous local and community newspapers with dailies publishing weekend editions.

Business: National publications include *Canadian Business* (www.canadianbusiness.com), *The Northern Miner* (www.northernminer.com), Black Press has over 100 publications. Regional publications include *Business in Calgary* (www.businessincalgary.com) and *Business Edge* (www.businessedge.ca), from Alberta, *Business Examiner* (from Black Press), *Toronto Business Times* (www.torontobusinesstimes.com) and *Ottawa Business Journal* (www.ottawabusinessjournal.com) from Ontario and, in French, *Businesst* (www.hebdosquebecor.com) and *Regard Économique* (<http://www.linfonet.com>) from Quebec.

Periodicals: There are a range of magazines published by central and regional government, including *Government Executive* (www.networkedgovernment.ca), *Municipal World* (www.municipalworld.com), and *The Hill Times* (www.thehilltimes.ca). News and current affairs are covered by *Inroads* (www.inroadsjournal.ca) published in November and May, *L'Actualité* (www.lactualite.com), published 20-times a year and *This Magazine* (www.thismagazine.ca) a bi-monthly with alternative political views. Monthly magazines include women's titles *Chatelaine* (<http://en.chatelaine.com>) in English and French and *Flare* (www.flare.com), others include *Our Times* (www.ourtimes.ca), and *Yourthink Magazine* (www.youthink.ca) for the young.

Broadcasting

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) is the national, public broadcaster with programmes in English and French that can be accessed by internet.

Radio: There are over 2,000 private, commercial radio stations providing entertainment, news and information for most tastes. CBC (www.cbc.ca/radio) operates four networks, including Radio One, Two, Radio Canada International and a radio station for indigenous communities with broadcasting news, cultural and speech-based programmes. Newcap (www.ncc.ca) has a network of 76 radio stations, and Rogers Broadcasting Limited (www.rogers.com) operates a pay-to-listen network, throughout the country. Local radio stations are found in all urban and many rural areas.

Television: Analogue TV is due to be replaced by digital TV by 31 August 2011. Until then all pay-to-view cable TV companies must supply a proportion of their output in analogue form until it has a digital subscription rate of 85 per cent. CBC Television has three channels, CBCtelevision, CBCnews and CountryCanada with some domestic programmes broadcast in English and French. CTV (www.ctv.ca) is the largest, English-language, privately-owned network, broadcasting mainly high rating US shows, as well as its own productions. The Global Television Network (Global TV) (www.globaltv.com) is the second English-language, privately-owned network, which relies on foreign programmes for its contents.

There are several French-language TV stations mainly based in Province of Quebec, including *Télé-Québec* (www.telequebec.tv) and *CJNT-TV* (www.cjntmontreal.ca) from Montreal.

The national, Aboriginal People's Television Network (www.aptn.ca) is based in Winnipeg.

There are many cable and satellite channels in English and French, available throughout the country offering all varieties of entertainments, news and educational programmes.

Other news agencies: CBCNews: www.cbc.ca/news
CNW Group (in English and French): www.newswire.ca
The Canadian Press: www.thecanadianpress.com

Economy

Canada has vast natural resources of natural gas, timber, minerals and abundant fresh water and agricultural land that is used to produce beef, wheat, dairy products and fish, most of which is used in export trade. Its manufacturing sector is dominated by vehicle and aircraft construction, plus processing its natural resources.

When the global economic crisis began to weaken the economy, GDP growth fell to 0.7 per cent in 2008, the economy slipped into recession in 2009 with negative growth of -2.8 per cent, due to lower commodity prices and less exports in general. By 2010 GDP growth had picked up by 3.2 per cent as global trade increased; growth weakened again in 2011 and was estimated at 2.5 per cent.

The Canadian banking system did not suffer the disastrous losses encountered elsewhere during the global economic crisis. This was due to the conservative nature of the sector, coupled with sound financial regulations and an economy that was already underpinned by high global commodity prices, historically low unemployment and low corporate and bank leverage rates that allowed the sector to ride out the downturn. Nevertheless, the impact on not only the volume of commodities exported but also profits from exports did reduce government revenue from US\$242 billion in 2007/08 to US\$234 billion in 2008/09 and a projected US\$220 billion for 2009/10. As a result the country's current account balance, which fell from US\$13.3 billion in 2007 to US\$9.6 billion in 2008 fell further in 2009 to -US\$38.4 billion and further still to -US\$49.6 billion in 2010. The federal government instigated measures, along with other countries, to stimulate the economy back into growth, including injections of public funds into money markets and guarantees for financial institutions.

As global trade picked up Canada's prospects improved. Nevertheless, it is the health of the US economy that has the greatest influence on Canada's economy,

as the two countries are comprehensively linked by trade, with millions of jobs on both sides of their border relying on how well each other fares. Each is the other's largest export market; around 75 per cent of Canada's exports and 50 per cent of imports are with the US. China, which is buying up a large proportion of Canada's natural resources each year, has become Canada's second largest export market.

External trade

Canada's largest trading partner by far is the US and the country is now the leading export market for 35 separate US states. The North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), under which Canada has tri-lateral trade agreements with Mexico and the US, has been in operation since 1994. Canada's other top trading partners are China and Japan.

In the first six months of 2009 export commodities by rank were, crude oil, natural gas, motor vehicles, gold, pharmaceuticals, larger aircraft and wheat and rye. However, of the top 25 commodities exported only pharmaceuticals and larger aircraft registered a year-on-year increase in sales, with natural gas and crude oil losing a greater percentage than any other in the top 10, at 56 per cent and 51.8 per cent respectively.

Canada is the world's largest source of nickel, zinc and uranium and has large reserves of hydrocarbons, exported mainly to the US.

Imports

Main imports are machinery and equipment, vehicles and parts, industrial materials, crude oil, consumer goods, foodstuffs, durable consumer goods and construction materials.

Main sources: US (50.6 per cent of total in 2012), China (11 per cent), Mexico (5.5 per cent).

Exports

Major exports include primary industry products such as wheat and agricultural products, fish, timber and minerals including gold and silver, as well as processed and manufactured goods such as vehicles and parts, industrial machinery, aircraft, telecommunications equipment; chemicals, plastics, fertilisers; wood pulp and aluminium.

Main destinations: US (74.6 per cent of total in 2012), China (4.3 per cent), UK (4.1 per cent).

Agriculture

The agricultural industry is of considerable importance to the country's economy. Canada has somewhere in the region of 280,000 farms and is the world's second-largest wheat exporter, with its high-quality spring wheat commanding a premium price on world markets. The

country is also a sizeable producer of other grains, notably barley, rapeseed (canola) and oats. Livestock rearing is as important a source of income as field crops.

Despite the relative importance of agriculture in the Canadian economy compared with other industrialised nations, the federal government tends to argue that it cannot afford to match the plentiful subsidies and other aid offered to farmers in the EU and US. However, delays in co-ordinated elimination of the world's farm subsidies through the WTO are focussing the government's attention on support programmes for Canadian farmers.

During the embargo of live cattle, plans were advanced to expand slaughtering facilities and increase the amount of Canadian processed beef, and open new export markets. The latest ban increased the enthusiasm for the plans, and has had added impetus since a US Senate decision in 2005 not to designate Canada as an area of 'minimal risk' from BSE, and a US cattle association won a temporary injunction blocking any US government move to reopen the border to live cattle imports.

Canada remains the largest exporter of fish in the world. Approximately half of the country's sizeable annual fish catch is processed for export. Aggressive fishing depleted Canada's stocks causing the closure of Canada's Atlantic fisheries in 1992, which led to a bitter salmon war with the US when wild salmon stocks dipped to perilously low levels. Such were the tensions, annually renewed during the salmon spawning season, that Canada encouraged the capture of fish bound for rivers in Washington and Oregon, in retaliation for rising US catches of Canadian-origin salmon. A deal agreed in 1999 will be effective for 10 years along the coast and for 12 years along the Fraser River run, which should enable flexible reductions in catches through a managed scheme, replacing the more rigid quota system formerly in effect. Despite past tension between the national governments on this issue the US remains the largest market for Canadian fish exports.

Criticism has been raised that Canada has not protected its wild salmon population of fish. Three of the world's largest salmon farming companies operate in British Columbia and overall there are 17 companies managing 105 salmon farms. The fear is that Canada is raising non-native species of salmon and feeding them fish protein that creates risks for other species of wild fish. The resulting intermingling of populations risks the spread of disease, a competition for habitat and the alteration of the wild salmon gene pool. A

salmon enhancement programme has been set up to enable the annual catch to reach 150,000 tonnes instead of the current average 70,000 tonnes.

Canada has imposed a moratorium on commercial cod fishing and has a 320km exclusion zone off its eastern coast, patrolled by an increased number of coast guard vessels.

Limited cod fishing in the northern and southern Gulf of St Lawrence resumed in the 2004–05 season, with maximum removals of up to 3,500 tonnes in the northern, and 3,000 tonnes in the southern, gulf.

Over 70 per cent of Canada's total land-mass is covered with forests and woodland. The country accounts for approximately 10 per cent of the world's forests and the forestry industry accounts for more than US\$24 billion annually. Canada is the largest exporter of newsprint, softwood timber and wood pulp worldwide. There is enormous variation in forest types across this vast country, including temperate softwood rainforests in coastal British Columbia, mixed boreal shield forests in central Canada, the maritime forests of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia on the Atlantic seaboard, and the sparse and slow-growing forests found at the Arctic tree line.

Québec, Ontario and British Columbia have the largest forest resources. Most forest and other wooded land is publicly owned, with 71 per cent under provincial jurisdiction and a further 23 per cent under the wing of the federal and territorial governments. Just 6 per cent is privately owned, and is generally located in the more productive regions. Large areas of forest land are under legislative protection, including the almost 8 per cent protected from harvesting.

Canada is the world's largest exporter of market pulp (almost 30 per cent of world total) and newsprint (near 40 per cent), with most production located in British Columbia, Ontario and Québec.

Non-wood forest products in Canada include maple syrup, berries, mushrooms, medicinal plants and game.

Industry and manufacturing

In a typical year for the Canadian economy the industrial sector contributes approximately 27 per cent to total GDP. The sector also accounts for around 18 per cent of the country's workforce.

Canada's traditional manufacturing sectors include petroleum refining, pulp and paper mills, motor vehicles, steel, sawmills and planing mills, the dairy products industry, motor vehicle spare parts and accessories, metal stamping and pressing, smelting and refining, industrial chemicals, food processing, commercial

printing, communications equipment, feed industries, plastics fabricating industries and aircraft and aircraft parts. Notable new sectors are in advanced telecommunications and network technology. Production of primary metals and transport equipment has grown in recent years, reflecting exceptional growth in the automotive industry. The vast majority of automobile production is exported to the US.

Tourism

Canada has huge wilderness areas situated within or close to the Arctic Circle; it also has impressive mountain ranges, wide prairies and many rivers and lakes, enough to keep even the most avid activity-tourist fully occupied. Those less keen on the great outdoors can visit Canada's major cities for cultural and historic interests. The Winter Olympics were held in Vancouver in December 2009, boosting what had been a slump caused by the global economic crisis in 2008. In 2009 US citizens made over 11.6 visits to Canada, outnumbering visits by all other nationalities by around 3:1; however Canada's domestic tourist trade out-performs all international business by spending, domestically, 50 per cent more than all other visitors. Citizens from the UK and France were the next largest group of visitors. The majority of trips by US citizens were for the purpose of leisure, while for those travelling from UK and France it was evenly split between leisure and visiting family and friends. In official figures for the third quarter of 2010, tourism was showing growth, particularly of visitors from Asia and other emerging markets which registered 20 and 32 per cent respectively, while UK visitors were showing a drop of 1.5 per cent on the 2009 year-on-year figure. Travel and tourism 2011 was forecast to contribute C\$23.5 billion (US\$22.9 billion) of direct revenue in 2011, 1.4 per cent of total GDP, and indirectly C\$84.8 billion (US\$82.8 billion), or 4.3 per cent of total GDP. The industry was also forecast to directly employ 550,000 workers (3.2 per cent of total employment), the majority of which are employed in small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs), often family owned; employment including related jobs was expected to be 7 per cent of the total workforce (1.21 million jobs). Foreign exchange earnings from tourism in 2011 are forecast at C\$20.7 billion (US\$20.2 billion), which constitute 4.2 per cent of total foreign exchange. The industry was estimated to have had C\$10.9 billion (US\$10.6 billion) investment committed for 2011, or 2.8 per cent of total investment in the economy.

Environment

The Northwest Passage between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans opened up in 2007 as a result of record ice melting in the Arctic. The ice shelf had retreated further than at any time in recorded history.

Mining

Canada remains a significant producer of gold and the country's reserves of the yellow metal more than trebled over the 1983–2003 period, to an estimated 1,500 tonnes. Other base metal and metal stocks have declined, but Canada remains a major producer of nickel, copper, zinc, lead, iron ore and diamonds. Most of Canada's exploration is focused on diamonds, mainly in Northwest Territories, Alberta, Québec and Saskatchewan. The country's first diamond mine opened in 1998.

Hydrocarbons

Canada had considerable natural resources and in 2010 was the world's third largest producer of natural gas, after the Russian Federation and the US, and eighth largest of crude oil. Proven oil reserves were 175.2 billion barrels in 2011. However, over 95 per cent of deposits are oil sands and are comparatively difficult and expensive to extract and process compared to conventional crude oil. Production in 2011 was 3.5 million barrels per day (bpd), with consumption at 2.3 million bpd, allowing one million bpd to be exported, mainly to the US. Canada's refinery capacity is 2.0 million bpd; throughput in 2011 was 1.7 million bpd. In a move to obtain approval for its planned oil pipeline the Canadian pipeline provider, TransCanada, agreed in November 2011 to reposition the US\$7 billion project away from the environmentally sensitive Sandhills of Nebraska. There are three main sources of oil production, the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin (WCSB), offshore oil fields in the Atlantic Ocean and the Athabasca oil sands deposits in northern Alberta. This is one of largest oil sands deposits in the world and provides Canada with its largest share of oil production. There are other oil sands deposits on Melville Island in the Canadian Arctic, and two smaller deposits in northern Alberta near Cold Lake and Peace River. Investment from Asian oil companies has grown in the 2000s as rising global oil prices have made oil sands production more profitable. Canada's oil sector is wholly private, although its regulatory framework is one in which federal and provincial bodies co-ordinate policy and regulation. Provincial authorities handle most of the oversight in the sector. The national regulatory body is the National Energy Board (NEB). The largest and most influential of the

provincial regulators is the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB). There are several oil companies in operation, the largest of which is Imperial Oil (majority owned by US-ExxonMobil); EnCana is the largest upstream operator and other significant companies include Talisman Energy, Suncor and EOG Resources. Proven reserves of natural gas in 2011 were 2.0 trillion cubic metres (cum), with around 98 per cent of all natural gas production based in WCSB. Gas production has been falling since the peak of 188 billion cum in 2006, when a severe winter had increased demand, in 2011 production was 160.8 billion cum. Domestic gas consumption is rising due to 104.8 billion cum in 2011 due to an increase in demand from the electricity-generating sector, driven by the economy and population growth.

Canada and the US operate an integrated gas market which means that any change in one country affects the other, including transport costs, weather and infrastructure constraints. Natural gas exports are exclusively destined for the US and totalled 88 billion cum in 2011.

The Enbridge Pipelines cover 14,000km, delivering oil from Edmonton, Alberta, to Montréal, Québec, eastern Canada and refineries in the US Great Lakes region. The Trans-Mountain Pipeline (TMPL) delivers oil from Alberta to Vancouver and British Columbia as well as the US state of Washington. Gas production is steady throughout the year with spare capacity pumped into underground storage for winter peak use.

Canada's coal reserves were around 6.58 billion tonnes in 2011, with coal production 35.6 million tonnes oil equivalent (mtoe). Coal consumption was around 21.8 mtoe and is primarily used for electricity generation with the remainder used in steel production.

Energy

Canada currently has one of the world's most diversified electricity generation bases. The country has hydroelectricity, natural gas, oil, coal and nuclear power sources, which combined produce enough electricity to meet all domestic demand. The energy industry accounted for 5.6 per cent of national GDP in 2007 and employed 2.2 per cent of the labour force. At around 20 per cent of all export value, energy exports totalled C\$90 billion (US\$97 billion) almost all of which was sent to the US. Domestic energy demand grew by 2.8 per cent in 2007 due to population growth and economic expansion.

In 2007 total installed electric generating capacity was around 124 million

kilowatts. Electricity generation and pricing are determined and controlled by each province with federal control exercised only for international and inter-provincial movement of energy. Environmental assessments of energy projects and the development of policies and regulations are also under federal control.

Hydroelectric power plants provide over 60 per cent of electricity generation; there are plans to increase this total through further expansion of power plants. Natural gas provides half the electricity of hydropower, and nuclear production half as much again. Natural gas alone provides 25 per cent of all domestic energy needs, supplied either directly to homes or in the production of electricity. There are 20 nuclear power reactors located in five sites, of which two are destined to be closed in 2011 and another in 2012 and 2013. However despite the decline in short-term energy production there has been a resurgence of interest in nuclear power generation. Sustainable energy production has increased with the growth in the use of wind turbines and in 2007 the government committed C\$230 million (US\$248 million) in investment in research for new technologies.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX)

Commodity exchange

Bourse de Montréal (Montreal Exchange)

Banking and insurance

Toronto Dominion Bank is Canada's largest banking and financial services institution, in terms of both its retail network and overall personal deposits and lending, having merged with Canada Trust in 2000.

Financial legislation, (Bill C-8) allows foreign and local banks to increase stakes in Canadian banks and to encourage global competitiveness and economic growth. The legislation allows a single shareholder to hold up to 20 per cent of the voting shares of a big Canadian bank, and opened the way to strategic alliances with foreign banks.

Central bank

Bank of Canada

Main financial centre

Toronto

Time

Canada has six time zones:

Newfoundland – GMT minus 3.5 hours;
Atlantic standard time (Maritimes and Labrador) – GMT minus four hours;
Eastern zone (Québec and most of Ontario) – GMT minus five hours;

Central zone (Manitoba, north-west Ontario and eastern Saskatchewan) – GMT minus six hours;

Mountain zone (west Saskatchewan, Alberta and north-east Columbia) – GMT minus seven hours;

Pacific zone (Yukon and the bulk of British Columbia) – GMT minus eight hours;
Daylight saving operates, in all states except Saskatchewan, from early March to late October – local time plus one hour.

Geography

Canada is the second-largest country in the world (Russia is the largest) and it stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. Apart from the border with Alaska in the north-west, Canada's frontier with the US follows the upper St Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes, extending westwards along latitude 49 degrees N.

There are six principal geographical regions. The south-east corner is the most densely populated part of the country and comprises the Atlantic Provinces and the lowland area to the north of the Great Lakes and the St Lawrence Seaway. To the north and west of this region lies the Canadian Shield, which is covered by forests, bare rock and lakes. Further to the west are the Interior Plains which are largely prairies, while the coastal area along the Pacific is dominated by the Rocky Mountains. The Northwest Territories extend into the Arctic with a barren landscape and sparse population density.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

The climate is extreme, especially inland. Winter temperatures drop well below freezing, but summers are usually warm. There are often heavy snowfalls in winter, making travel difficult.

Dress codes

Canadians are generally casual about dress. It is best to ask about dress codes if you are unsure.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all, except permanently resident US citizens with photo-ID; (all US nationals require a passport for re-entry to the US from January 2007).

Visa

Are required by all, except citizens of EU, the Commonwealth and US. For further information see www.cic.gc.ca/english/index.html and choose 'to visit'.

Business travellers should seek further information from a Canadian consulate or see

<http://canadainternational.gc.ca/dbc/Business-travel-entering-canada-en.aspx>.

Business visitors from exempted countries do not need to fulfil extra entry criteria, as

long as their permanent employment is typically outside Canada, however work may not be undertaken beyond that allowed.

Currency advice/regulations

There are no restrictions on the import and export of currency.

Customs

Personal effects are allowed duty-free. Certain items, such as plants, meat, cereals, dairy products and live animals are subject to import licensing.

Prohibited imports

Include illegal drugs, marijuana, firearms, mace, pepper spray, switchblades (flick-knives) and fireworks. Vegetable matter including, apples, pears, stoned fruit, potatoes, fresh corn and firewood.

Health (for visitors)

Advisable precautions

No vaccinations or certificates are required. Comprehensive travel and medical insurance is essential though, as medical treatment can be very expensive.

Hotels

Many international hotel chains operate in most cities. However, it is advisable to book rooms in advance.

A goods and services tax of 7 per cent applies to all hotel bills, although visitors may be able to apply for a refund (for details and procedure see:

www.nationaltaxrefund.com/eng/demarch.htm). Some states and provinces apply their own taxes.

Most large hotels have facilities for small displays or exhibitions, and smaller rooms may be rented as sample rooms. Most hotels impose a substantial surcharge on telephone calls.

For visitors travelling by car, good quality motels are available around all major towns and cities where rates are considerably less than those charged by city-centre hotels.

Credit cards

Credit cards are widely used.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 1 Jul (Canada Day), 11 Nov (Remembrance Day), 25–26 Dec (Christmas).

When Canada Day falls on a Sunday, the next day is considered a holiday.

When Christmas Day or Boxing Day fall at a weekend, an extra day is given in lieu. Additional holidays are observed by individual provinces and territories.

Variable dates

Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day (Mon preceding 24 May), Labour Day (first Mon in Sep), Thanksgiving Day (second Mon in Oct).

Working hours

Working hours vary throughout the country and government departments may work variable or flexible hours, especially during the summer months.

Banking

Mon–Wed: 1000–1500; Thu: 1000–2000; Fri: 1000–1600. Opening hours depend on the region and institution.

Business

Mon–Fri: 0830–1700.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0830–1700. Post offices Mon–Fri 0800–1745.

Shops

There is a five-day working week, but most retail stores in cities open on Saturday and a few on Sunday as well. Late shopping (to 2100) on Thursday or Friday is common in large cities; in suburban shopping centres, supermarkets often stay open until 2100 or 2200 Mon–Fri. Some convenience stores and supermarkets remain open 24 hours, especially in heavily populated areas.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

GSM 850/1900 services available in highly populated areas.

Electricity supply

120–240V (mostly 120V) 60 cycles AC, with two-pin flat-prong plug fittings (or three-pin with one round and two flat prongs) and screw-type lamp sockets. Adapters and transformers are available for appliances using other voltages.

Weights and measures

Metric system (Imperial and US systems also still in use).

Social customs/useful tips

When making introductions, the hand shake is considered rather formal unless you are meeting someone for the first time. To Canadians, eye contact is very important in conversation as it shows that you are paying attention.

It is best to avoid touching people unless you know someone fairly well. Touching someone of the opposite sex may well be considered harassment but touching the arm of your conversation partner is acceptable.

Tipping is expected and tends to be more generous in Canada than in other countries. 10 or 12 per cent would be considered frugal.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Air Canada

International airport/s: Ottawa (YOW) (www.ottawa-airport.ca), 13km south of the capital city. All major airports have full banking and catering facilities, duty-free

shops and car hire. Airport-to-city bus and taxi services and, in some cases, rail links, are available.

Toronto Pearson International (YYZ) (www.gtaa.com), 27km north-west of Toronto, is Canada's busiest airport. It has three terminals catering for domestic and international flights; the latest was opened in April 2004 and handles Air Canada's domestic and international passengers.

Other airport/s: Calgary (YYC) (www.calgaryairport.com), 8km north of city. Edmonton (YEG) (www.edmontonairports.com), 28km south of city. Montréal Dorval (YUL) (www.admtl.com), 25km west of Montréal. Vancouver (YVR) (www.yvr.ca), 15km south-west of city. Winnipeg (YWG), 10km north-west of city.

Airport tax: There are two taxes that may or may not be included in the price of the ticket.

Both levies vary depending on destination, the Airport Improvement Fee (AIF) is C\$5 for intrastate, C\$10 interstate and US, and C\$15 for all other international flights; the Air Travellers Security Charge is C\$12 for intrastate and C\$24 for interstate and all international flights. Travel agents and airport information can provide last minute details.

Surface

Road: Numerous border crossings from the US link directly with the Canadian highway system. Avoid crossings during peak times at weekends during the summer months when there are long delays.

Rail: Via Rail Canada Inc provides links with the US. Routes include: Montréal–New York; Toronto–New York; Toronto–Chicago; Toronto–Cleveland/Detroit.

Water: Ferries connect the east coast of the US with Canada across the great lakes. Hudson Bay ports are subject to closure during winter months.

Main port/s: On the Atlantic Ocean: Halifax (Nova Scotia), St John (New Brunswick) and St John's (Newfoundland). Montréal and Québec have ports on the St Lawrence Seaway (linking the Atlantic with the Great Lakes). Toronto's port is on the north-western shore of Lake Ontario.

Montréal is the only port for passenger liners from Europe.

On the Pacific Ocean: Vancouver (British Columbia).

Getting about

National transport

Air: There are frequent and extensive air services connecting all towns and cities of importance with 68 major airports and over 700 smaller ones lacking control tower facilities. Privatised Air Canada serves the main routes, and several regional carriers operate as well. Air travel

is the most widely recommended form of travel between major cities, except between Toronto, Montréal and Ottawa, where train service is comfortable, reasonably priced and usually punctual.

Road: There are about 392,000km of roads, about 84 per cent surfaced.

Motorways connect some large industrial centres and most large cities have a motorway network. The trans-Canada highway at 7,821km is the longest national highway worldwide. It runs from Victoria in British Columbia in the west to St Johns in Newfoundland in the east. The speed limit on motorways is 100kmph, 80kmph on rural highways and 50kmph on urban roads. Seatbelts are compulsory for all passengers.

Buses: Long-distance coach services link all major centres. They are very well air-conditioned, and it is often recommended that travellers keep a sweater handy.

Rail: There is an extensive rail network that comprises around 100,000km of track. The Canadian National Railway (CN) and Canadian Pacific Rail are the two main railway services, but passenger services are operated by Via Rail Canada (Canrail), a government agency. Air-conditioning, refreshment facilities and sleeping accommodation are available on long-distance passenger services. The Transcontinental, runs a northern route through Saskatoon, Edmonton and Jasper, three times a week. It is advisable to book seats/sleepers as early as possible. Canrail passes give unlimited travel for certain areas and routes.

The southern route through Regina, Calgary and Banff was cut when government subsidies were stopped.

Water: The St Lawrence Seaway provides deep-water passage from the Atlantic to the Great Lakes; there are 3,017km of canals, mainly used for leisure.

City transport

Taxis: Good taxi services operate in all major cities; rates vary between cities.

Buses, trams & metro: Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver and Edmonton have efficient, safe and clean underground systems. Most cities have reliable and extensive bus services.

Car hire

Car hire is widely available. Overseas driving licences may be used for the first three months of a visitor's stay (six months in British Columbia). Driving is on the right-hand side of the road.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially

to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling (IDD) code for Canada is +1, followed by area code and subscriber's number:

Calgary	403	Québec	514
Edmonton	780	Saskatoon	306
Fredericton	506	St John	506
Halifax	902	St John's	709
Kingston	613	Toronto	416
London	519	Vancouver	604
Montréal	514	Windsor	519
Niagara Falls	905	Winnipeg	204
Ottawa	613		

Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce in Canada, 260 Adelaide Street, PO Box 160, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1N1 (tel: 777-8512; fax: 738-7714; e-mail: info@amchamcanada.ca).

British Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce, PO Box 1358, Station 'K', Toronto, Ontario, M4P 3J4 (tel: 502-0847; fax: 502-9319; e-mail: central@bcctc.ca).

Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Delta Office Towers, 350 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 7S8 (tel: 238-4000; fax: 238-7643; e-mail: info@chamber.ca).

British Columbia Chamber of Commerce, 750 West Pender Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6C 2T8 (tel: 683-0700; fax: 683-0416; e-mail: bccc@bcchamber.org).

Halifax Chamber of Commerce, 7 Spectacle Lake Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia (tel: 468-7111; fax: 468-7333; e-mail: info@halifaxchamber.com).

Kingston Chamber of Commerce, 67 Brock Street, Kingston, Ontario, K7K 1R7 (tel: 5448-4453; fax: 548-4743; e-mail: info@kingstonchamber.on.ca).

Manitoba Chamber of Commerce, 227 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2A6 (tel: 948-0100; fax: 948-0110; e-mail: mbchamber@mbchamber.mb.ca).

Montréal Board of Trade, 380 St Antoine Street West, Montréal, Québec, H2Y 3X7 (tel: 871-4000; fax: 871-1255; e-mail: info@ccmm.qc.ca).

North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, 124 West 1st Street, North Vancouver, British Columbia, V7M 3N3 (tel: 987-4488; fax: 987-8272; e-mail: info@nvchamber.bc.ca).

Ontario Chamber of Commerce, 180 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z8 (tel: 482-5222; fax: 482-5879; e-mail: info@occ.on.ca).

Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, 1701 Woodward Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 0R4 (tel: 236-3630; fax: 236-7498; info@greaterottowachamber.com).

Québec Federation of Chambers of Commerce, 500 Place d'Armes, Montréal, Québec, H2Y 2W2 (tel: 844-9571; fax: 844-0226; e-mail: info@ccq.ca).

Toronto Board of Trade, 1 First Canadian Place, PO Box 60, Toronto, Ontario, M5X 1C1 (tel: 366-6811; fax: 366-8406; e-mail: info@bot.com).

Vancouver Board of Trade, World Trade Centre, 999 Canada Place, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6C 3E1 (tel: 681-2111; fax: 681-0437; e-mail: contactus@boardoftrade.com).

Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, 259 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2A9 (tel: 944-8484; fax: 944-8492; e-mail: info@winnipeg-chamber.com).

Banking

Bank of Montréal, First Canadian Place, Concourse Level, PO Box 3, Toronto, Ontario M5X 1A1 (tel: 867-7662).

Bank of Nova Scotia, 44 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5H 1H1 (tel: 866-6161).

Business Development Bank of Canada, 3rd Floor, 5 Place Ville Marie, Montréal, Québec H4Z 1L4 (tel: 283-5904; fax: 496-8036).

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC), Commerce Court, Toronto, Ontario M5L 1G9 (tel: 980-2211).

National Bank of Canada, 50 O'Connor Street, Suite 1224, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6C2 (tel: 238-8383).

Royal Bank of Canada, 200 Bay Street, Royal Bank Plaza, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2J5 (tel: 974-5151; internet site: www.royalbank.com).

Toronto Dominion Bank, PO Box 1, Toronto Dominion Centre, 55 King Street, Toronto, Ontario M5K 1A2 (tel: 982-7730).

Central bank

Bank of Canada, 234 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G9 (tel: 782-8111; fax: 782-7713; e-mail: paffairs@bankofcanada.ca).

Stock exchange

Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX), www.tsx.com

CNQ (Canadian National Stock Exchange), Toronto, www.cmq.ca

Nasdaq Canada, www.nasdaq-canada.com

Commodity exchange

Bourse de Montréal (Montreal Exchange) www.m-x.ca

ICE Futures Canada (Winnipeg Commodity Exchange), www.theice.com

Travel information

Tourism Industry Association of Canada, 130 Albert Street, Suite 1016, Ottawa K1P 5G4 (tel: 238-3883).

Air Transport Association of Canada, 99 Bank St, Suite 747, Ottawa, ON, K1P 6B9 (tel: 233-7727; fax: 230-8648).

Ministry of tourism

Tourism Canada, Federal Department of Industry, Science and Technology, 235 Queen Street, 4th Floor East, Ottawa K1A 0H6 (tel: 954-3851).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Sir John Carling Building, 930 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C5 (tel: 995-8963).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Lester B Pearson Building, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G2 (tel: 996-9134; fax: 952-3904).

Ministry of Industry, CD Howe Building, 235 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H5 (tel: 952-4782).

Ministry of Natural Resources, 580 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E4 (tel: 995-0947; fax: 992-6424/5230).

Ministry of Public Works and Government Services, Sir Charles Tupper Building, Confederation Heights, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M2 (tel: 736-2027; fax: 736-23440).

Other useful addresses

Advertising Standards Canada, 350 Bloor Street, Suite 402, Toronto ON M4W 1H5 (tel: 961-6311; fax: 961-7904; email: info@adstandards.com; internet: www.adstandards.com).

Alberta Stock Exchange, 10th Floor, 300 Fifth Avenue SW, Calgary T2P 3C4 (tel: 974-7400; fax: 237-0450).

Bourse de Montréal (Stock Exchange), Tour de la Bourse, CP 61, 800 Square Victoria, Montréal H4Z 1A9 (tel: 871-2424; fax: 871-3553; e-mail: info@me.org).

British High Commission, 80 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5K7 (tel: 237-1530; fax: 237-7980).

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 1500 Bronson Avenue, PO Box 8478, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3J5 (tel: 724-1200; fax: 738-6843).

Canadian Embassy (USA), 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20001 (tel: 202-682-1740; fax: 202-682-7701; e-mail: webmaster@canadianembassy.org).

Nations of the World: A Political, Economic and Business Handbook

Canadian Importers' Association, 210 Dundas St West, Suite 700, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2E8 (tel: 595-5333; fax: 595-8226).

Canadian Manufacturers' Association, One Yonge St, Toronto, Ontario, M5E 1J9 (tel: 363-7261; fax: 363-3779).

CTV Television Network, 42 Charles St East, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 1T5 (tel: 928-6000; fax: 928-0907).

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, 580 Booth St, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E4 (tel: 995-3065; fax: 996-9094).

Department of Finance, 140 O'Connor St, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G5 (tel: 992-1575; fax: 996-2690).

Department of Labour, Labour Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0J2 (tel: 997-2617; fax: 953-0176).

Department of Regional Industrial Expansion, 235 Queen St, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H5 (tel: 995-9001).

Economic Council of Canada, PO Box 527, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5V6 (tel: 993-1253; fax: 991-4904).

Investment Canada, PO Box 2800, Station 'D', Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6A5 (tel: 996-2515; fax: 995-0465).

Ontario International Trade Corporation, 5th Floor, Hearst Block, 900 Bay Street,

Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2E1 (tel: 325-6514; fax: 325-6509).

Retail Council of Canada, 210 Dundas St West, Suite 600, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2E8 (tel: 598-4684; fax: 598-3707).

Statistics Canada, Statistical Reference Centre, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6 (tel: 951-8116; internet site: www.statcan.ca/start.html).

Toronto Stock Exchange, The Exchange Tower, 2 First Canadian Place, Toronto, Ontario, M5X 1J2 (tel: 947-4700, 947-9301; fax: 947-4662).

Vancouver Stock Exchange, Stock Exchange Tower, 609 Granville Street, PO Box 10333, Vancouver, BC V7Y 1H1 (tel: 689-3334; fax: 688-6051).

Winnipeg Stock Exchange, 620 One Lombard Place, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0X3 (tel: 987-7070; fax: 987-7079).

Other news agencies: CBCNews: www.cbc.ca/news

CNW Group (in English and French): www.newswire.ca

The Canadian Press: www.thecanadianpress.com

Internet sites

Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC): www.apecsec.org.sg

Air Canada: www.aircanada.ca

Canada Online: strategis.ic.gc.ca

Canada Yellow Pages: www.canadayellowpages.com

Canadian Airlines: www.cdnair.ca

Canadian Automobile Association: www.caa.ca

Canadian Energy: www.centreforenergy.com

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA): www.acdi-cida.gc.ca

Canadian Parliament: www.parl.gc.ca

Canadian Statistics: www.statcan.ca

Government of Canada (all dept): www.canada.gc.ca

Government of Alberta: www.gov.ab.ca

Government of Ontario: www.gov.on.ca

Government of Québec: www.gouv.qc.ca

Inuit and Artic news: www.nunatsiaq.com

North American Free Trade Agreement: www.nafta-sec-alena.org

Strategis (business and consumer site): strategis.ic.ca

Thomas Register: www2.thomasregister.com

Trans-Canadian highway: www.transcanadahighway.com