Canada

Domestic Affairs

The political uncertainty generated by the election of a secessionist government led by Premier René Levesque in predominantly French-speaking Quebec was a continuing factor in the country’s economic disarray in 1978, with prospective investors holding back expansion capital until the outlook cleared. Undoubtedly, the majority of Québécois sought accommodation of their concerns within the Canadian context. The challenge was to provide them with a sense of lasting security for their culture and identity, and full and equal participation in the responsibilities and opportunities of private and public life.

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau was required to call nationwide parliamentary elections in 1979. Given Canada’s economic circumstances, that was an unwelcome prospect. The Progressive-Conservative party, led by Joe Clark, a 39-year-old Westerner, vowed, among other things, to reduce government interference in the economy. Whichever party won, the victor would take over a country of squabbling regions with conflicting demands and some serious structural problems. Events in the United States were certain to have a significant impact on developments in Canada, since American companies bought and sold about 70 per cent of Canada’s exports and imports and controlled about three-quarters of Canada’s large foreign investments.

The gross national product in 1978 grew at the rate of about 3 per cent. This was better than the meager 1.6 per cent registered in 1977, but far below the 5 per cent believed necessary to cut into the nagging unemployment problem. In 1978, despite the fact that 360,000 new jobs were created, the number of unemployed rose to 870,000, and stood at 8.4 per cent of the labor force. The value of the Canadian dollar fell by more than 7 cents. A spate of strikes during the year included that of the postal workers, who were finally ordered back to work by the Canadian Parliament.

Alberta, a former agricultural backwater, was fast emerging as the most assertive of Canada’s fractious provinces. Five times the size of New York State, Alberta had almost 85 per cent of Canada’s oil and gas, its fastest-growing cities (including two of the country’s seven largest), the lowest taxes, the least unemployment, more money than even the politicians knew what to do with, and great confidence in its
future. In short, Alberta seemed to have everything—except clout. Of Parliament’s 264 seats, Alberta had but 19, fewer than the city of Toronto.

**Foreign Relations**

Relations between Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau’s Liberal government and the Carter administration in the United States became somewhat frayed at the edges. The maritime boundaries dispute arising from the 1977 adoption of the 200-mile limit proved far harder to settle than anyone had anticipated. An interim agreement on fishing broke down in mid-1978, with each country sending the other’s fishermen home. During a visit to Ottawa, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance agreed with Canadian External Affairs Minister Don Jamieson on special negotiations to decide which fish and boundary issues might be settled.

The Canada-U.S. auto pact, long viewed as a symbol of cooperative action, came under attack in 1978 as Canada’s trade deficit with the U.S. remained unacceptably high. As part of an effort to correct the imbalance, the Canadian government entered into a bidding contest that previously had been waged on the state and provincial levels. Canada’s offer of multi-million-dollar incentives to both the Ford Motor Company and General Motors angered the U.S. government, which called for an end to the bidding war. At year’s end, Canada-U.S. discussions on the pact were continuing, while General Motors was trying to decide whether to follow Ford’s example and locate a new plant in Canada.

Most of the handful of U.S. anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations of Canadian imports were disposed of in Canada’s favor, while President Carter resisted efforts by some congressmen to impose protectionist measures on other imports. These developments undoubtedly reflected the fact that the U.S. would be dependent on Canadian support during the multilateral trade negotiations that were scheduled to take place in Geneva in 1979. The likelihood of a new international tariff-cutting agreement contributed in part to some discussion in Canada about the possibility of a free-trade agreement or economic union with the U.S., an idea that would have been unthinkable in the days of the Vietnam war and the Nixon administration.

Tentative discussions took place during the year about a Canadian tax measure the U.S. opposed, and a U.S. tax regulation to which Canada objected; the Canadian regulation prohibited tax deductions for television ads directed at Canadian audiences but placed on U.S. stations; the U.S. tax regulation limited attendance at foreign conventions to two trips a year.

The main bilateral energy issue that was discussed was the construction of the $12-billion pipeline that was to bring Alaskan natural gas through Canada to the energy-hungry lower 48 states. U.S. Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger warned that a number of things had to be done quickly if the project was to be kept alive. One possibility that was broached in government and industry circles was to have the United States abandon the “express route” concept
through the north-central United States and instead expand existing gas delivery systems in Canada.

During 1978 two-way trade with China amounted to just over $450 million, with Canadian exports accounting for nearly $370 million. Wheat sales alone came to $310 million. Government officials made a trip to the People's Republic accompanied by senior executives of more than a dozen Canadian companies who were actively pursuing trade there. Progress was made in the negotiations.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Demography and Immigration

The Jewish population of Canada in 1978 was estimated at 305,000. Leading Jewish centers were Toronto (115,000); Montreal (115,000); Winnipeg (20,000); Vancouver (12,000); and Ottawa (7,500).

There were 13,000 Jews in Toronto living at what was defined as "poverty" level. This figure comprised a solid 13 per cent of Toronto's Jewish population. Jean Lee, supervisor of the financial assistance program at the Jewish Family and Child Service (JFCS), described most of these poor people as invisible in terms of Jewish institutional life. Almost a quarter of the Jewish poor were teenagers in the 15-to-19 age bracket who lived with their families. While many poor Jews were over 65 years of age, just as many were between 50 and 65. Occupationally, many fell into the displaced skills category in millinery, sales, and the fur and textile trades. Some were immigrants, many Sephardic, whose qualifications for employment were inadequate. Included as well were recent emigrants from Montreal.

The need for increased economic aid to meet the future requirements of elderly Jews in Winnipeg was one of the significant findings of a report released by the Commission on Aging of the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council. The report stated that 14.4 per cent of the approximately 3,000 elderly Jews in the city were in financial difficulty, and that 22.7 per cent expected trouble in meeting their future economic needs.

The Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) celebrated its 60th anniversary during the year. Bud Cullen, minister of employment and immigration, in an address at the annual meeting of the organization, said that out of the 3,400 refugees who had been admitted to Canada under the Ongoing Refugee Program, approximately one-third were Soviet Jews, and that JIAS had "been instrumental in helping many of these people rebuild their lives in this country." Cullen pointed out that the provisions of the new Immigration Act (1977) allowed Canada to "help persecuted or displaced persons on humanitarian grounds, regardless of whether or not they fall within the United Nations' definition."
Communal Activities

In October Toronto’s Temple Sinai made available its facilities for the first Alcoholics Anonymous meeting ever held in a Canadian Jewish synagogue. This step was taken because it was felt that many Jews refused to attend AA meetings that were held in churches. “We are opening our meetings to them with the deliberate intention of creating a more comfortable atmosphere for the Jewish alcoholic,” said Rabbi J. Pearlson. He pointed out: “Grandpa’s l’chaim and compulsory social drinking are significantly different in nature.” Rabbi Pearlson said he knew of many Jews with alcohol problems, and hoped that the new AA group would be of assistance to them.

B’nai B’rith District 22, with 75 lodges for men in the five eastern provinces, was close to reaching the 10,000-member mark. Increased interest in smaller communities led to the formation of several new lodges; charters were granted during the year to Moncton, New Brunswick, Bytown in Ottawa, and Bay Cities in the Burlington-Oakville, Ontario region. Moncton, with a population of less than 60 Jewish families, had a lodge membership of 40. B’nai B’rith strove to maintain a sense of identity and a synagogue link for Jews in widely-scattered locations; in one isolated northern Ontario settlement, the organization paid a leader $6,000 annually to make possible the religious education of three children.

Half a million dollars less than in the previous year was allocated to the United Israel Appeal (UIA) in the 1978–79 budget of the Allied Jewish Community Services (AJCS) of Montreal. “There is a shift to a greater recognition of local needs,” said Manuel Batshaw, executive vice-president of AJCS. “It is interesting to note that at the board of trustees meeting, not a single question was raised about the fact that more money is going into local needs. This is because there is a desire to maintain a strong, viable Jewish community here.” Local agencies received a total of $434,108 more than in the previous year; the allocation to national agencies (Canadian Jewish Congress and JIAS) remained constant.

The 1978–79 budget did not allow for possible additional funds to make up for the drop in government subsidies to day schools. Grades 1 through 4 began receiving their government grants, well into the school year, at a reduced rate of close to 60 per cent. The two francophone schools, Écoles Maimonide and Sepharade, and the French-stream classes in anglophone schools continued to receive 80 per cent subsidies. Grades 5 and up, which were still under associate status with the Protestant School Board, received their grants as usual. AJCS was considering giving $130–150,000 to the École Sepharade so that it could meet the increased demand for Jewish education in French. The anglophone schools agreed to increase their French instruction by one hour per week. The Jewish People’s and Peretz Schools undertook a study of children in the first four grades to see if their command of English was being affected by the increased use of French.

A study commissioned by one of Canada’s leading women’s organizations revealed that there was a great need for Jewish day care in the Toronto community.
that was not being met. A survey of 571 families by the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) found that 81 per cent desired day care with Jewish content and more than half wanted kosher food. Some of the main reasons for the growing desire for Jewish day care reflected an economic situation which resulted in the need for two-income families; an increase in the number of single parent families; a lack of quality care; and an added difficulty in finding appropriate day care for those who wanted their children to be in a Jewish environment with Jewish content. The study had been carried out in 1975 and sent to more than 35 social agencies, including the Toronto Jewish Congress (TJC) and JFCS. Georgina Grossman, coordinator of volunteer services at NCJW, said that the organization was extremely disappointed at the lack of response, especially from Jewish social agencies. “We felt we did our job—to show there’s a need in the community. Maybe nobody responded to it because it would have opened up a barrel of worms.” Jerry Diamond, executive director of JFCS, stated that the agency “tried eight times to get day care off the ground, but we have never gotten the financial and emotional support of this community.” Diamond said he recognized that there was a need for Jewish day care, but argued that it was a middle class need which the community was not willing to support.

A period of retrenchment in the delivery of services to the Jewish community was foreseen by the social planning committee of TJC. Madeleine Epstein, retiring chairman of the committee, stated that while the community was still growing and dispersing throughout metropolitan Toronto, “we will be dealing with reduction rather than growth . . . The sense of buoyancy is gone and new realities must be faced.” Irene Fink, reporting for a subcommittee on the aged, indicated that by 1986 the aged population of the Toronto Jewish community would total 18,000, a 61 per cent increase over 1971. To cope with this increase, Fink called for a variety of housing alternatives for senior citizens in private living situations; among them were co-operatives, small group homes, and other integrated forms of housing. Coupled with housing would be supportive social and health services. John Wahl, reporting for the subcommittee on singles, urged the creation of a Jewish dating service under the auspices of the Federation of Jewish Women’s Organizations.

About one-third of Jewish foster children were being placed in non-Jewish homes by the Jewish Family Service-Social Service Center (JFS-SSC), due to a critical shortage of Jewish foster parents in Montreal. While refusing to divulge actual figures, JFS-SSC’s children’s services department described the situation as “urgent,” and took a number of steps to bring the matter before the Jewish community. JFS-SSC sought to place all Jewish foster children with Jewish families, but it was just not possible. “We’ve had a terrible time in getting the community to respond,” stated foster home recruitment worker Helena Sonin.

A 1978-79 “hold-the-line” budget of $6,091,178 for national and local Jewish welfare services and the Jewish school system was approved by the executive of TJC. TJC treasurer Murray Segal, who also served as chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, pointed out that the budget “contemplates continued restraint
and recognizes mainly salary and other cost adjustments, with little or no expansion of services.” The budget broke down into four major sections: Jewish education—$3,197,449; local services—$1,853,857; national programs—$1,088,172; and special items—$44,700.

**Community Relations**

Jews in New Brunswick were shocked by the appearance around Passover of *Web of Deceit*, an antisemitic booklet. Its author, Malcolm Ross, also wrote a series of letters to the Moncton *Times* in which he accused “Khazar-Jews” of controlling international banking and of duping “much of Christendom into believing they were God’s chosen people . . .” According to Dr. Julius Israeli of Newcastle, “The small Jewish community . . . was shocked and bewildered by these antisemitic activities.” *Web of Deceit* was based on material disseminated by the “Canadian Intelligence Service” in Flesherton, Ontario.

On Easter Sunday an act of arson took place in Temple Beth El in Windsor, Ontario. Following a meeting of the local community relations committee, a statement was released to the media: “We do not know who perpetrated the latest outrage at our synagogue, Sunday March 26th, but we know that the people of Windsor and of all of Canada will view with disgust these vandals who perform their perverted work. An attack on any house of God cannot be viewed as a mere prank; it is in fact an attack on the frontline of Canadian society. We are sure that all people in this community support us in deploiring this vicious attack on our synagogue.”

Jewish community leaders expressed satisfaction with the two-year prison sentence imposed on neo-Nazi leader Donald Andrews. Andrews, a Toronto health inspector, was charged with directing a systematic hate campaign against Jews and Blacks. Andrews’ accomplice, Dawyd Zartshansky, got 18 months in a reformatory. Judge Graburn said he was shocked by the offences and agreed with Crown Counsel Edward Geller that they “invited retaliation in a multi-cultural, pluralistic community.” The Ontario Election Finances Commission rejected the application of Andrew’s Nationalist party of Canada for registration as an official political party in the province. Registration would have meant that the party’s name would appear on the ballot, and that it could collect contributions which would be tax exempt.

The Canada-Israel Committee lodged a complaint with the Quebec Press Council over a cover article in the February issue of the magazine *Ici Quebec* attacking Zionism and the State of Israel. The article, “No to Racism of Israel,” was written by the magazine’s editor-in-chief. The premier of Quebec, René Levesque, commented on the article at a news conference, stating that it was “a lousy article . . . reeking of prejudice.” While “it is permissible to criticize Zionism,” he noted, “there is a delicate line between anti-Zionism and antisemitism.” Levesque insisted that the “Parti Québécois was in no way linked to the magazine.” In fact, however, Jean-Marie Cossette, the director of *Ici Quebec*, was elected president of the Montreal branch of the nationalist group.
The Soviet Union, through its assistant press attaché in Ottawa, apologized for having distributed a crudely antisemitic booklet at the Ontario Science Center, but Jewish community leaders refused to accept the apology. Soviet embassy official Igor Lobanov told the Canadian Jewish News in two telephone interviews, one of which he initiated, that *The Sword of David*, a 78-page booklet dealing with Zionism and Israel, published by the state-controlled Novosti Press Agency Publishing House, was accidentally distributed at the Soviet spaceship exhibit. "The booklet was meant for the information and education of Soviet embassy personnel, not for the general public," he explained. "We'd like everyone to return the booklet to our embassy." A CJC official stated that *The Sword of David* resembled propaganda disseminated by the Nazis. He termed "a bold-faced lie" Lobanov's claim that the booklet was only for Soviet embassy consumption.

The appearance in Vancouver of the "Yellow Canadian Christian Business Directory 1977-78" was noted with concern by the Pacific Region of CJC. Following representations to the Department of Justice in Quebec made by CJC, Eastern Region, charges were dropped against a number of small Jewish business establishments in Montreal, which were closed on the Sabbath, for violating the Lord's Day Act. The Department of Justice indicated that it would introduce changes which would permit such businesses to be open on Sundays.

In a letter to Bud Cullen, Alan Rose, executive director of CJC, wrote: "I furnish supporting materials relating to Bishop Valerian Triga's activities as a leading member of the Iron Guard during the war in Rumania. May I reiterate that the Canadian Jewish Congress requests that Bishop Trifa be banned from entry to Canada. We believe that his views and activities are repugnant to all Canadians, and under no circumstances should he be permitted to enter this country. You may be aware that a number of suspected war criminals are resident in Canada. Thus, we are particularly anxious to avoid any possibility of Bishop Trifa visiting Canada, let alone seeking landed immigrant status." In response, Cullen indicated that Canadian officials were "diligently continuing their endeavors to ascertain whether there are statutory prohibitions to Archbishop Trifa's entry into Canada."

"Holocaust," NBC's 9-hour documentary drama, provoked a public debate in the media unprecedented for a television program. Religious leaders in Toronto and Montreal praised the program's moral message, teachers applauded its "sensitizing" effect, and Holocaust survivors called the presentation "timely." At the same time, the series drew critical letters in the press, and a negative reaction from some German, Ukrainian, and Polish viewers.

A motion calling on the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) to take an "unequivocal" stand in favor of national unity was resoundingly defeated (84-8) at an executive meeting of the Eastern Region. The majority of those speaking on the motion felt that a firm stand by CJC would be a useless gesture, serving only to antagonize a sector of the Quebec populace against the Jewish community. A minority argued that the CJC leadership should openly express the feelings of the community, and that not to do so was hypocrisy. Walter Roll, CJC Eastern Region secretary, said
there was no need to get involved in a political crossfire over Canadian unity. "The only result for us would be getting decimated."

**Zionism and Israel**

Canadian Jews were deeply concerned whether they were successfully presenting Israel's point of view to the Canadian public. The most recent Gallup Poll showed that some 7 per cent of the population favored the Arab point of view, some 23 per cent favored the Israeli point of view, while 70 per cent indicated that they had no preference.

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin climaxed his official six-day visit to Canada in November by delivering a passionate address to a crowd of 5,000 persons at Toronto's Beth Tzedec synagogue. Amid the tightest security ever mounted for a visiting dignitary, Begin declared that Israel would negotiate with Egypt until a peace treaty was signed, and appealed to the Soviet Union to permit Jewish emigration. To sustained applause, the 65-year-old Israeli leader spoke with deep emotion as he defended Israel's negotiating stance and reaffirmed his government's refusal to withdraw to the pre-1967 armistice lines or to acquiesce to the creation of a PLO-controlled state in Judea and Samaria.

At the United Nations Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, Canada voted against a resolution which maintained that Israel had violated a 1949 convention protecting the populations of occupied territories; the resolution was adopted 23 to 2, with 7 abstentions. Canada also voted against another resolution, which affirmed the right of Palestinians to establish an "independent and sovereign state," and called on all nations to support the Palestinians through the Palestine Liberation Organization; this resolution was approved 25 to 3, with 4 abstentions.

Negotiations were successfully concluded for a co-production arrangement between Israeli and Canadian film interests. The pact, covering a three-year period, called for joint financing and planning for feature motion pictures. It was formally signed in Jerusalem.

**Arab Boycott**

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) described as "a positive step forward" the announcement by Ottawa that it intended to introduce legislation requiring all companies and individuals to report boycott requests. The federal government's announcement was made by Secretary of State John Roberts and Defense Minister Barney Danson at a press conference. CIC National Chairman Norman May said the organization saw the proposed changes as a clear indication of the government's goodwill and good faith on the question of combatting the Arab boycott. The legislation was to be introduced in the next session of Parliament.

Roberts and Danson, both of whom represented Toronto ridings, also revealed that "Statements of Fact" in contracts would henceforth require an addition
certifying that Canadian companies would comply fully with Canadian government policy. Negative certificates of origin—which stated that goods, services, or components did not originate in a specified nation—would be prohibited as well. Under the terms of the government's 1976 anti-boycott guidelines, which had been criticized by the Jewish community, government services and assistance were denied to companies accepting boycott provisions in contracts. The loophole in the guidelines was that firms not in need of federal aid could flout them and thus acquiesce in the boycott.

Ontario's anti-boycott legislation, Bill 112, was formally signed into law by Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon. CIC issued the following statement: "Bill 112 will greatly contribute towards safeguarding the human rights of all Ontarians, protecting the people of this province from the discriminatory restrictive trade provisions of secondary and tertiary boycotts. This comprehensive legislation constitutes a decisive step in eliminating the intrusion into the Ontario marketplace of the invidious discriminatory practices of the Arab boycott. It is a proud day for Ontarians."

Rabbi Gunther Plaut, president, and Alan Rose, executive vice-president of CJC, sent a telegram to J.C. Thackray, president of Bell Canada Limited, indicating that the Jewish community was disturbed by a report of possible discrimination against Canadian Jews in Bell's contract with Saudi Arabia to provide 500 technicians to modernize the Saudi telephone service. The report alleged that Bell Canada Limited stated in its contract that it had no dealings—investments, subsidiaries, or franchises—in Israel. The president of Bell Canada flatly denied the report. Another telegram was sent to Thackray by Alan Rose, pointing out that guidelines for Bell Canada International employees serving with the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) in Saudi Arabia stated: "Obtain proof of religion in the form of baptismal or other certificate." The intent of this requirement was clearly to exclude Jewish applicants.

**Soviet Jewry**

The House of Commons adopted the following motion in February: "This House asks that Parliament's concern respecting the treatment of Anatoly Shcharansky and other Soviet citizens who have attempted to exercise their rights and freedoms as embodied in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and agreed to by participating states at Helsinki, be raised at the earliest opportunity at the Belgrade meeting of the CSCE now under way." The minister of state for multiculturalism indicated that Canada's appeals on Shcharansky's behalf, and on behalf of human rights issues in the USSR in general, sparked seven official protests to the Canadian government by the Kremlin. "But we are not backing off the human rights issue. Canada is taking a strong stand," he said.

The Montreal Inter-Faith Task Force for Soviet Jewry arranged a vigil by its members on the first night of Passover in front of the Soviet consulate in
Montreal, to protest the harassment of Josef Mendelevitch, a Jewish prisoner of conscience. The Montreal Committee for Soviet Jewry, the Group of 35, and the Students' Struggle for Soviet Jewry sponsored a demonstration in front of the Soviet consulate in Montreal on April 13 to protest the Kremlin's refusal to permit Vladimir Slepak and his wife to emigrate.

An outdoor rally organized by the Hillel Foundation and the Toronto Student Zionists was held at the University of Toronto in March to mark the anniversary of Anatoly Shcharansky's arrest. The Montreal Students Struggle for Soviet Jewry held a 12-hour fast, at the conclusion of which there was a demonstration in front of the Soviet consulate. The Montreal Group of 35 protested against the harassment of the prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union at the performance in Montreal of the Moscow Chamber Choir. Members of the Group took their seats for the performance but left in protest minutes before it began. Five remained for the concert wearing prisoners' stripes.

Close to 4,000 people jammed Avenue De La Musée in front of the Soviet consulate in July to protest the harsh sentencing of Soviet activist Anatoly Shcharansky. McGill law professor Irwin Cotler told a large gathering that the undisguised aim of the Soviet government was to crush both the human rights and Jewish activist movements. Cotler, who had power of attorney to act on Shcharansky's behalf, said the Soviets were particularly severe with the 30-year-old computer specialist because he was viewed as the "heart of the movement." Another protest rally took place at the parliament buildings in Toronto, where Premier William Davis urged Canadians to support the Soviet dissidents. Both demonstrations were sponsored by the Montreal and Toronto Committees for Soviet Jewry, with participation from the Group of 35, Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, and Committee for the Release of Anatoly Shcharansky.

Five hundred people attended a memorial meeting at the Beth Tzedec synagogue for the Jewish writers executed in the Soviet Union on August 12, 1952. The meeting was sponsored by CJC's Toronto Committee for Soviet Jewry and TJC's Committee for Yiddish. Max Shecter, national chairman of the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry, presided.

**Holocaust Observances**

The annual day-long Holocaust symposium was held in Vancouver in May, with more than 700 students and academics in attendance. Introduced into the program was an essay contest on "The Historical Background," sponsored by the religion departments of Capilano College, Langara College, and the University of British Columbia. A standing committee on the Holocaust was formed by the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and the Pacific Region of the CJC. A community-wide Holocaust remembrance marking Yom Hashoa and the 35th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising was held in April in Montreal at the Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem synagogue. The memorial address was given by Rabbi Irving
Greenberg of New York. Another gathering took place in Toronto attended by over 3,000 people. The rally was addressed by Rabbi Gunther Plaut, president of CJC, and Dr. Franklin H. Littell of Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa. Among those participating in the program were the mayor of Toronto, David Crombie; Larry Grossman, MPP, Province of Ontario; and John Roberts, M.P. and secretary of state.

The mayor of Winnipeg, Robert Sheen, proclaimed the period from April 30 to May 6 as Holocaust Remembrance Week, and spoke at the opening ceremony at the YMHA community center. A Winnipeg street was renamed Avenue of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes for the week. The opening ceremony was followed by a series of seminars attended by about 2,000 people, Jews and non-Jews.

Work was begun on a Holocaust memorial on the lower level of AJCS' Cummings House in Montreal. The $108,000 memorial, designed by architect Saul Berkowitz, was the result of almost two years of research and planning by a committee of young people in their 20's and 30's, chaired by Steven Cummings, working in cooperation with the Association of Survivors of Nazi Oppression. The emphasis of the memorial was to be on education, and every effort would be made through exhibits and programming to attract the interest of children.

Religion

The Canadian Council for Conservative Judaism (CCCJ) was formed to act as the representative organization of the Conservative movement in Canada. CCCJ resulted from a merger of the United Synagogue, the organization of all Conservative synagogues in Canada and the United States, and the Rabbinical Assembly, the rabbinic arm of the movement. Henceforth, CCCJ would be the single voice of Canadian Conservative congregations and their rabbis. In a release issued following its creation, CCCJ declared: "While [we] fully support CJC as the overall representative body of Canadian Jewry, [we] will act for the Conservative movement in inter-religious affairs and, if and when required, will relate on religious issues to the government and people of Canada." There were approximately 30 Conservative synagogues in Canada.

Third-generation Canadian Jews were rapidly abandoning traditional religious observances, but nevertheless maintained a strong sense of Jewish "cultural" identity. This is one of the findings of a survey of 500 Jews in Montreal, Toronto, and Winnipeg undertaken by Paul Bain of the University of British Columbia. The survey showed a startling 63.5 per cent decline in religious practice among third-generation Jews as compared with the second generation. One-third of third-generation Jews never attended a synagogue. On the other hand, cultural identification with being Jewish, as measured in terms of preference for living in a Jewish area, believing that a strong bond unites Jews, and seeing Israel as a cultural center for Jews, was quite strong among the third generation.
In response to a concern expressed by many St. Laurent, Quebec residents, the joint outreach project of AJCS and CJC, Eastern Region attempted to formulate a plan of action to protest the high cost of kosher meat in Montreal.

Delegates taking part in a Jewish-Christian seminar in Ottawa on "The Family Under Attack" identified a number of ways in which religious groups could better help families cope with present-day crises. The seminar was arranged by the Canadian Jewish-Christian Liaison Committee on behalf of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Canadian Council of Churches, CJC, and Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

**Jewish Education**

The Supreme Court of Ontario turned down a proposal by the North York Board of Education to integrate the Associated Hebrew Schools into the public school system, on the grounds that mandatory religious classes were not within its jurisdiction. In his judgment, Judge John Holland challenged the Board's thesis that options within a school system would surmount the problem of exemption from religious instruction. Although the North York Board of Education approved legal fees to appeal the decision, Jewish spokesmen were divided on the matter. Ben Kayfetz, executive director of the Joint Community Relations Committee, indicated that the Supreme Court judgment meant that "religious courses would be compulsory, an anathema to a Jewish community which has fought to abolish religious instruction in public schools for the past 120 years." Kayfetz drew attention to the fact that there had always been a division of opinion on the issue of subsidies to private schools. He added, "Inflation has made a major difference in the debate."

Reverend John Roberts, chairman of the Educational Program Committee of the North York Board, stated that the Jewish community was being singled out as a "whipping boy" in a controversy relating to Ontario's Heritage Language Program. The controversy centered around the Board of Jewish Education's application to North York to receive partial funding for Hebrew language instruction under a program announced by the Ministry of Education in 1977. "Any group in society has the right to seek funds under that program," said Roberts. He argued that the ministry had reacted "way out of proportion" by claiming that the Board of Jewish Education had violated the intent of the Heritage program. And he added that the Toronto Star had completely misinterpreted the issue in charging editorially that the Jewish community was looking for funds to finance private schools.

During the 1977-78 school year, approximately 10,700 Jewish students, representing about half of all eligible youth in the community, were enrolled in the Jewish schools of Toronto; 5,600 were in day schools, of which there were 12; the rest were in supplementary schools offering instruction from one to five days a week. Rabbi Irwin I. Witty, director of the Toronto Jewish Board of Education, stated that low enrollment in Jewish high schools was distressing.
Speaking at the annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform) held in Toronto, Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld of that city's Temple Emanu-El indicated that the Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto, established five years ago with an enrollment of 180 in nursery through third grade, had taken root and begun to thrive. There were now 250 students and six grades; in 1979 an additional grade was to be added. The school's budget of nearly half a million dollars was supplemented by congregational subsidies, private contributions, and grants from TJC. To enroll a child in Leo Baeck, families had to be members of a recognized synagogue, not necessarily Reform, within the community.

Expansion of government aid to private and parochial day schools in Manitoba was provided for in the 1978–79 school year by amending the shared services provisions of the Public Schools Act. Three Jewish schools, the Winnipeg Hebrew School, Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate, and Ramah Hebrew School, stood to benefit from the new provisions.

**Jewish Culture**

A play, based in part on the Holocaust research of University of Montreal professor Howard Roiter, had a successful run at Edmonton's Theatre 3. "Yiskor," a dramatic study of five concentration camp inmates, was staged for the first time by the Edmonton Actor's Workshop under the direction of its founder, Martin Fishman, who co-authored the play with Fred Keating. Fishman was initially drawn to the subject matter by Roiter's *Voices From the Holocaust*, which itself had been staged as a play several years ago by Montreal's Saidye Bronfman Centre. A correspondence developed between the two men, with Roiter providing the young Canadian director with complete transcripts of interviews he had conducted with Holocaust survivors.

Norman Cafik, minister of state for multiculturalism, awarded more than $6,000 to CJC's Jewish Historical Society as a grant for its project "Shuls, A Study of Canadian Synagogue Architecture." Another grant of $3,400 went to the National Committee on Yiddish to cover the cost of publishing *A Century of Hebrew and Yiddish Press and Literature in Canada*, by the Yiddish writer H.L. Fuks.

The exhibition "Journey into our Heritage," mounted by the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada and depicting the history of Jews in the Canadian West, was brought to Toronto for ten days in September. A reception marking the opening of the exhibit was tendered by the Central Region Archives and the Multicultural History Society of Ontario.

CJC's Jewish Music Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Sabina Ratner, presented the premiere performance of the commissioned work "Three Songs of the Holocaust," composed by Professor Marvin Duchow of McGill University and performed by Pauline Vaillancourt, noted Quebec soprano, and Jean-Eudes Vaillancourt, pianist, at the Samuel Bronfman House, Montreal. "Three Songs of the Holocaust" is a song cycle inspired by *O the Chimneys*, written by Nobel laureate
Nelly Sachs in 1961. The concert was recorded for broadcast on the CBC in April 1979 as part of the “Arts National Program.”

Through the efforts of the Toronto Committee on Yiddish, Yiddish studies at the University of Toronto were now being given on two levels, with full credits to students.

Publications

Dr. Jay Braverman, educational director of United Talmud Torahs, Montreal, published Jerome’s Commentary on Daniel, under the auspices of the Catholic Biblical Monograph Series. Dr. Braverman’s work compares Jerome’s commentary with the Apocrypha, Rabbinic literature, and the work of other Jewish and Christian writers, among them Josephus and Origen.

Bronfman Dynasty by Peter C. Newman, editor of McLeans Magazine, caused a stir in literary circles. This long-awaited biographical study deals with the Bronfmans, Canada’s wealthiest Jewish family.

The Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia published Pioneers, Pedlars and Prayer Shawls, which documents the early Jewish settlements in British Columbia and the Yukon.

CJC granted the 1978 H.M. Caiserman Award to Maurice Cohen for Creation and Destiny of Man.

Lawrence Freiman’s Don’t Fall off the Rocking Horse is the autobiography of the Ottawa Zionist leader and business tycoon.

A new Hebrew textbook for beginners, written by Professor Moshe Nahir of the Department of Near East and Judaic Studies at the University of Manitoba, was published by the Manitoba Department of Education. It was circulated in the Winnipeg public schools where Hebrew was taught, and made available to local Jewish schools.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut’s Hanging Threads, a collection of short stories, was well received and widely read.

Genia Silkes, lecturer and writer, was awarded the annual Marilyn Finkler Memorial Award in Literature for “journalistic excellence in furthering awareness of the Holocaust.” The Finkler Memorial Fund was established three years ago by Leona and Arnold Finkler and is administered by the Jewish Public Library.

An addition to the growing literature on the Holocaust was Paul Trepman’s Among Men and Beasts.

Personalia

Allan M. Linden of Toronto, law professor at Osgoode Hall Law School for the past decade, was appointed to the Supreme Court of Ontario. Abraham Mandel of Hamilton was appointed as a county court judge. Marvin Zuker and Harold Rubenstein of Toronto were named judges of the small claims court. Named as members
of the Upper Canada Law Society were Clayton Ruby, Joseph B. Pomerant, and Mark Orkin. Herbert S. Levy, former executive vice-president of the B'nai B'rith District No. 22, was named a Toronto citizenship court judge.

Rabbi Harry Joshua Stern, whose lifelong devotion to interfaith causes has earned him the title "The Ecumenical Rabbi," was named the Great Montrealer of the past two decades in the field of religion. A panel of Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Greek Orthodox leaders unanimously chose Stern over three other candidates.

The Adath Israel Congregation of Outremont, Quebec honored Rabbi Charles Bender for 50 years of service to the Jewish community of Montreal, 40 of them with the congregation. A citation was presented to Rabbi Bender by the Canadian government.

Honors accorded to Rabbi Gunther Plaut, president of the CJC, included a Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Toronto, membership in the Order of Canada, and appointment by the government of Ontario to the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

The Order of Canada (replacing the Order of the British Empire) was awarded to Monroe Abbey, Q.C., who was also honored at the annual Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner in Montreal. The Order of Canada was also given to the following: Simon Reisman, formerly deputy minister of finance; Sylvia Ostry, former head of Statistics Canada, former deputy minister of consumer and corporate affairs, and now director of the Economic Council of Canada; Maxwell Comings, well-known Montreal community figure; Sam Cohen, also a Montrealer; Joseph Shoctor, Edmonton, a figure in the world of amateur theater; Ben Wosk of Vancouver; and Edwin Mirvish of Toronto, whose contributions to retailing, the restaurant business, and the professional theater are well known.

Appointed to the Canadian Senate was Jack Marshall, formerly a Progressive Conservative member of the House of Commons from Cornerbrook, Newfoundland. He joined four other Jews in the Senate: David Croll, H. Carl Goldenberg, Sydney Buckwold, and Jack Austin.

Judge Alan B. Gold of Montreal received an honorary degree from the Université de Montréal at a special convocation. Gold had served as chief judge of the Quebec provincial court since 1970. Justice Albert Mayrand of the Quebec court of appeal was also granted an honorary degree at the same ceremony.

Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, the internationally renowned Hassidic folk singer, settled in Toronto. He planned to divide his time between Toronto, New York City, and Israel.

A team of two students from the Bialik Hebrew Day School in Toronto topped the Diaspora communities at the International Bible Contest in Jerusalem. The two, Rhonda Levin, 15, and Ziv Gamliel, 12, placed second overall behind the Israeli contingent.

Among Canadian personalities who died in 1978 were: Hyman Bessin (68), prominent Ottawa businessman, past president of the Canadian Zionist Organization, and well-known figure in the Orthodox community; Leonard Fine (61), founder of the Toronto post of the Jewish War Veterans and a participant in Israel's War
of Independence; Harold Tanenbaum (47), successful Toronto industrialist; Jack Shindman (81), highly regarded in Toronto for his tireless work for JIAS (following World War II he helped in the adjustment of 15,000 displaced Jews who came to Canada); Sophie Wollock (56), founder and general editor of the Montreal Weekly, The Suburban; Chaya Surchin, first Canadian national president of Pioneer Women of America, who died at her home in Tel Aviv; Bertha Allen, M.B.E. (79), who was made a member of the British Empire for her work in setting up canteens for servicemen during World War II; Joseph Lunenfeld (60), one of the founders of the United Israel Appeal of Canada and an internationally known Jewish leader; Colonel Edward Churchill (65), dynamic builder of Expo 67 and one of Canada's few Jewish career army officers to gain renown; Haskell B. Masters (82), active in the motion picture business and involved in many Jewish causes; Israel Plattner (75), writer and humorist, and a leader in the Toronto Yiddish-speaking community; and Sam Steinberg of Montreal, businessman and philanthropist, who was an officer of the Order of Canada.

Bernard Baskin