

Canada

National Affairs

THE ECONOMY moved ahead during the year at a modest pace with continuing low inflation. After making substantial gains in recent years, the currency declined against the U.S. dollar, largely due to declining commodity prices.

The Liberal Party, which had governed continuously since 1993, lost power in the January general election, and Paul Martin's tenure as prime minister ended after less than two years. Stephen Harper's Conservative Party won the most seats and formed the government, but failed to gain a majority and had to depend on support from other parties. At year's end Harper was clearly in control, but faced the prospect of another election in 2007 or 2008, depending in part on the whims of the smaller parties.

The Conservative caucus had no Jewish MP's while the Liberals had four: Irwin Cotler, Raymonde Falco, Anita Neville, and Susan Kadis, all of whom were named as opposition critics in the new Parliament. Two Jewish parliamentarians from Quebec, Jacques Saada and Richard Marceau, were defeated, the former facing opposition from some Muslims in his constituency because of his Zionist background and support for Israel.

In an election advertisement the Liberals highlighted improvements in their record on Israel since Martin took over, and, in the end, retained most of their vote among Jews. Harper, for his part, told Jewish leaders during the campaign that the Jewish community "has a good friend in the Conservative Party," condemned anti-Semitism, and promised to shift Canada's voting pattern in the UN in a more pro-Israel direction.

Martin resigned as party leader after his defeat, and the Liberals held a convention in Montreal in December to choose a successor. Stephane

Dion, a former minister, won a surprising victory. Dion, during the Israel-Hezbollah war, had criticized the government for favoring Israel and called for a more even-handed approach. In response to questions posed to the candidates prior to the convention by the *Canadian Jewish News* (CJN), Dion affirmed that "our friend Israel has the full right to exist and defend itself," and that Hamas and Hezbollah were terrorist groups. But he reiterated his criticism of Israeli strikes against Hezbollah, stressing their ineffectiveness, and recalled calling for an immediate ceasefire when hostilities began. Most of the other candidates for leadership of the party were supportive of Israel, some with various degrees of qualification.

The Liberal contest was marred by attacks on Bob Rae, a former Ontario premier, who was running for the top job. A flyer distributed at the convention labeled Rae a supporter of "Israeli Apartheid" and pointed to his Jewish wife's role in the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC). Evidence pointed to the Canadian Arab Federation (CAF) as the disseminator of the flyer. The CAF, in any case, endorsed its message and criticized Rae for addressing a Jewish National Fund meeting, on the grounds that the JNF was "complicit in war crimes and ethnic cleansing."

The new Conservative government recalled the controversial Yvon Charbonneau from his post as ambassador to UNESCO in August, midway through his four-year term. Charbonneau had gained notoriety for his sharp attacks on Zionism and Israel, first as a union leader and then as a Liberal MP from 1997 through 2004.

Canadian Jews were active in efforts to draw attention to the genocide in Darfur. Many participated in rallies and other events held in several cities to support the victims, and Jewish groups were prominent among the organizers of a demonstration in Toronto that drew thousands in September. Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz of Montreal led a group of high school students to meet MPs in Ottawa in June to discuss the issue. The students had participated in the March of the Living, which included visits to extermination camps in Poland, and were outspoken about preventing further genocide. The rabbi averred that his group was responding to the biblical injunction to love the stranger, and insisted that after the Holocaust every Jew was obligated to stand up for human rights.

National Post columnist Barbara Kay created a stir with a column that appeared in August on "The Rise of Quebecistan." It was triggered by a rally in Montreal attended by several leading politicians. Although ostensibly an antiwar gathering, Kay claimed that it had a decidedly pro-Hezbollah and anti-Israel tone. She pointed to the historical identification of leftist Quebec intellectuals with French-speaking Arab countries, and

charged that such sentiments “joined with reflexive anti-Americanism and a fat streak of anti-Semitism” to make “Quebec the most anti-Israel of the provinces”

TERRORISM AND RADICAL ISLAM

Stewart Bell, the country’s leading journalistic authority on terrorism, warned Canadians to take the threat of an Al Qaeda attack seriously. Addressing a January conference of the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students, Bell claimed that the terrorist group was already making plans and identifying targets, that it was raising funds inside Canada, and that neither the government nor private citizens were prepared, a situation that he blamed, in part, on the prevalence of moral relativism. Similar views were expressed by David Harris, national security senior fellow at the Canadian Coalition for Democracies, in a talk on “Confronting Terrorism at our Doorstep” delivered in July. Harris argued that Canada’s immigration system was too lax, allowing potential terrorists to enter the country. As a result he claimed, Canada had become a terrorist haven, and what he called excessive political correctness weakened the authorities’ ability to identify the danger.

Daniel Pipes, the American Middle East expert, pointed specifically at Quebec in remarks to a Montreal audience in April. Pipes asserted that the province seemed oblivious to the danger of radical Islamists entering its territory and that it was, “by far, the worst of any area in North America” in its openness to extremists.

A rally under the name United Against Terrorism took place in June in Toronto, sponsored by a number of Jewish and non-Jewish groups. The main speaker was Stockwell Day, minister of public safety, who promised increased international cooperation against terrorism, challenged the hatred that he said emanated from “twisted religious notions,” and defended the country’s participation in the NATO operation in Afghanistan. Tarek Fatah, founder of the Muslim Canadian Congress (MCC), denounced Islamic radicals. Claiming that “our faith has been hijacked,” Fatah said, “We will do what we can to take back our faith from these murderers.” Prime Minister Harper sent a message of support.

The significance of these warnings was driven home in June, when 17 alleged Islamic terrorists were arrested in the Toronto area. Investigation revealed plans for bomb attacks on sites in southern Ontario; there were no indications that any Jewish institutions had been targeted. Prime Minister Harper said that the thwarted plot showed that “Canada is not im-

munism to the threat of terrorism." That same month, in response to calls from several religious groups, the government barred British imam Sheik Riyadh ul-Haq from entering Canada for a lecture tour. He had been accused of vilifying Jews, Hindus, and moderate Muslims. At year's end, however the *National Post* revealed that government intelligence assessments showed Hezbollah continuing to operate in Canada, raising funds and stockpiling equipment.

In view of the reports of danger within Canada, Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel called upon the government to help defray the security costs of targeted communities, such as the Jews, and Public Security Minister Day promised to consider the request. Spokespeople for the Jewish community stressed the high costs that had already been incurred to protect people and institutions. In Toronto, for example, the federation estimated that it would have to spend \$11–12 million over the coming three years.

A Montreal man, Naji Antoine Abi Khalil, was convicted in a U.S. federal court of planning to export military equipment to Hezbollah. A judge in New York City sentenced him to five years in prison for attempted material support to terrorists, attempted contribution to terrorism, conspiracy to export banned material, and money laundering.

Two deportation cases made news during the year. Mahmoud Mohammad Issa Mohammad, a Palestinian who had been living in Ontario for years while fighting a deportation order because of his part in the 1968 hijacking of an Israeli airliner in Athens, claimed that he was now too sick to be deported. A one-time member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, he had initially been ordered deported in 1988 but had managed to forestall any action through a series of legal maneuvers. And the long-running case of Issam Al-Yamani, also a former PFLP member, neared its conclusion as the Federal Court decided in December against his claim that membership in the group was a form of protected expression. The judges ruled that there was no right to belong to a terrorist organization.

Israel and the Middle East

In January, after Hamas won the Palestinian Authority election, Stephen Harper, not yet officially installed as prime minister, declared that his government would not recognize Hamas so long as it refused to renounce terrorism. Indeed, as soon as the Hamas-led government took office in April, Canada severed diplomatic ties and suspended all direct

monetary aid to the PA; money channeled through UNRWA continued to flow. The Israeli ambassador and mainstream Jewish organizations praised the government, while Canadian Friends of Peace Now and the Canadian Islamic Congress were critical, the latter terming the action "a resounding slap in the face to Canadian values."

In Israel's summer war with Hezbollah, the government supported Israel solidly and unequivocally, a stance that supporters of Israel considered a great improvement over past Canadian attempts to play the neutral honest broker. Prime Minister Harper bluntly rejected any hint of ambivalence, saying: "What we refuse to do is to be drawn into a moral equivalence between a pyromaniac and a fireman." In a CJA interview, Harper asserted that Canada would respond similarly to provocation against itself. Criticized by interim Liberal leader Bill Graham for abandoning Canada's traditional position, Harper defended his policy as "principled and in the best interests of this country. We're not concerned with opinion polls. We take what we feel is the right position."

Louise Arbour, a Canadian who was the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, set off a storm in the early days of the conflict by suggesting that senior Israeli military and political leaders possibly bore "personal criminal responsibility" for alleged war crimes. Her words provoked outrage from supporters of Israel. MP Irwin Cotler, a former justice minister, described her statement as "simplistic" and "misleading," and wrote that if Israel were prohibited from defending its northern border, the entire country would become a sitting duck. CJC president Ed Morgan, like Cotler a law professor, compared Israel's actions in Lebanon to the NATO campaign against Serbia. B'nai Brith Canada's (BBC) senior honorary counsel, David Matas, accused Arbour of appealing to the "anti-Zionist states who tyrannize the UN human rights institutions" and of feeding the terrorist groups' propaganda machines.

In August several prominent Quebec politicians joined a Montreal rally billed as a protest against the war, but which many perceived as directed against Israel. Among the 15,000 marchers were Gilles Duceppe, leader of the Bloc Québécois, André Boisclair, leader of the Parti Québécois, and former federal Liberal cabinet minister Denis Coderre. In a statement issued before the rally, the sponsoring organizations denounced Canada's alignment with the policies of the Bush administration and Israel's "murderous offensive," and called Lebanon a "martyr country."

Some observers spotted a number of Hezbollah flags and T-shirts in the crowd. Israeli ambassador Alan Baker sharply criticized the presence of the politicians, remarking, "We're seeing the leaders of opposition par-

ties marching in Montréal under Hezbollah flags—Hezbollah, which is a terrorist organization that's been outlawed by Canadian law.” But in an interview with the CJN, Duceppe said he had no regrets about his participation, arguing that his party did not support Hezbollah and that neither did the rally, whatever some “radicals” might have done there. One MP from Duceppe's party, Maria Mourani, told Montreal's *Le Devoir* that “it's clear to me . . . that there were war crimes in Lebanon” committed by the Israelis. The next day she backtracked, saying that such a judgment could only be made by duly mandated authorities, and added that both Israel and Hezbollah may have committed war crimes.

The issue of war crimes was raised again by Michael Ignatieff, an aspirant to the Liberal leadership. In an October interview on a French television show, he was asked to clarify an earlier statement asserting that Israeli actions at Qana (see above, pp. 243–44) did not constitute a war crime. This time he proclaimed, “I was a professor of human rights. I am also a professor of rights in war. What happened in Qana was a war crime. I should have said that.” MP Susan Kadis immediately resigned as Toronto cochair of his leadership campaign. MP Irwin Cotler, who backed Bob Rae for the leadership post, defended Ignatieff as a supporter of Israel in general terms, but said he questioned “Michael's judgment in the matter of Qana.” Ignatieff, meanwhile, tried to make amends by stressing his lifelong friendship with Israel.

The Liberal foreign affairs critic, MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj, was forced to resign in August because of the outcry over his remarks on a trip to Lebanon, where he reportedly labeled Israel a terrorist state and urged that Hezbollah be removed from Canada's terrorist list. Liberal leader Graham not only replaced Wrzesnewskyj but also reaffirmed Hezbollah's terrorist status. In September the New Democratic Party's biennial convention accused Israel of a “drastically disproportionate” response in Lebanon, termed Hezbollah a “recognized political party,” and called for the restoration of balance in Canadian foreign policy. Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) chair Marc Gold termed the resolutions “biased and one-sided.”

In an October speech to a B'nai Brith gathering, Prime Minister Harper declared that “when it comes to dealing with a war between Israel and a terrorist organization, this country and this government cannot and will never be neutral.” He went on to say, “those who attacked Israel, and those who sponsored such attacks, don't seek merely to gain some leverage, to alter some boundary or to right some wrong. They seek what they and those like them have always sought: the destruction of Israel and the

destruction of the Jewish people. Those who seek to destroy the Jews, who seek to destroy Israel, will for the same reason ultimately seek to destroy us all, and that my friends, is why Canada's new government has reacted with speed and spoken with clarity on recent events in the Middle East."

The potential Iranian nuclear threat to Israel was an issue throughout the year. In April, Prime Minister Harper condemned the call by Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for the destruction of Israel as well as his denial of the Holocaust. In December, both he and Opposition Leader Dion expressed concern about Iran's Holocaust-denial conference. Harper, speaking for the government, condemned "in the strongest terms this latest example of anti-Israeli and racist statements from the president of Iran," and called it an "offense to all Canadians." Dion expressed "shock and indignation" about a conference "solely designed to inflame anti-Israeli rhetoric and spread hate and racism throughout the world." MP Cotler, meanwhile, urged the international community to enforce the genocide convention against Iran and to prosecute the country's leaders in the International Criminal Court.

Under the Conservative government there was a noticeable change in Canada's voting pattern at the UN on matters involving Israel. Canada opposed three resolutions in the Human Rights Council condemning Israel's retaliation against rocket attacks from Gaza and its settlement policies in the territories. In the General Assembly, however, where some 20 anti-Israel resolutions are presented annually, Canada's record was inconsistent. It voted for several of the resolutions, abstained on some, and voted against several others, with no discernable pattern. Even so, this was a marked improvement over past years, when Canada supported most such resolutions, abstained on a few, and rarely opposed any.

In April, the government released data showing that nearly 500 applications for refugee status from Israeli citizens were processed in 2005. Of these, 151 convinced examiners that they had a well-founded fear of persecution if they returned to Israel, 269 had their claims rejected, and the others withdrew their applications. The "success" rate, 31 percent, was the highest since 1994. The notion that Canada would recognize Israelis as people requiring refuge had long been a sensitive bilateral issue.

The Federal Court, in May, refused a request from a Canadian teenager born in Jerusalem to have his passport show his country of birth as Israel. Canada's policy, based on its view of the disputed status of Israel's capital, was to use only the city designation, with no country name, for someone born in Jerusalem.

During the summer, El Al Israel Airlines reduced its weekly flights be-

tween Toronto and Tel Aviv from eight to five because of exceptionally high landing fees at Toronto's Pearson International Airport. In the fall, there was a further reduction to three flights per week.

Jon Allen was appointed Canada's ambassador to Israel in September, the third Jew to serve in that post.

PUBLIC OPINION, DIVESTMENT ISSUES, AND THE CAMPUSES

A public opinion poll conducted in August for the Association for Canadian Studies found that 31 percent of Canadians believed that the 9/11 attacks in the U.S. were at least partly due to Israel's actions in the Middle East. The proportion was higher (38 percent) in Quebec and lower (27 percent) in the rest of the country. In response to another question, about half of the respondents believed that Canada should pay more attention to the concerns of terrorist groups.

Of the organized efforts to boycott Israel that developed during the year, the one that attracted the most attention was launched by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), one of the largest and most powerful unions in the country. Delegates of its Ontario division, representing some 200,000 workers, voted unanimously at their May convention to support "the international campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions" against Israel because of its treatment of the Palestinians, and to apply leverage until Israel recognized the Palestinian right to self-determination. They also condemned Israel's "apartheid wall." Katherine Nastovski, who chaired CUPE's Ontario International Solidarity Committee, declared that "we believe the same strategy [that worked in South Africa] will work to enforce the rights of Palestinian people, including the rights of refugees to return to their homes and properties."

CJC regional director Steven Shulman denounced the resolution as a "propaganda statement" that was "based on falsehoods." The vote was controversial within the union itself: both Jewish and non-Jewish members picketed headquarters after the result was announced. Members of CUPE Local 2063 who worked in various Jewish community agencies were "absolutely outraged at this ridiculous anti-Israel initiative," according to the local's president. In June, Local 265, which also represented community workers, withdrew from the Ontario union in protest. Carolyn Roberts, president of another local affiliated with national CUPE, attacked Ontario CUPE president Sid Ryan for becoming "an embarrassment to the dignity, equality, respect and goodwill associated with the CUPE name." She also pointed out that the vote was held on a Saturday,

thereby depriving observant Jewish delegates of the opportunity to participate.

At Toronto's Labor Day parade, the union's float featured a banner that read "End Israeli Apartheid," provided by the Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid. By November, however, dissident views began to prevail. Local 3902, representing lecturers at the University of Toronto, explicitly rejected the resolution, while Local 79, representing Toronto municipal workers, refused to participate in an educational campaign to support it. And in December, when a motion to endorse the CUPE resolution was made at a council meeting of the Ontario high-school teachers union, opposition was so great that the proposal was withdrawn.

Some church groups also dealt with boycott efforts. In April, Archbishop Andrew Hutchinson, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, told an interfaith dinner about reported attempts within the world Anglican communion to promote divestment from Israel, and dissociated the Canadian church from such efforts. Later, in August, the United Church of Canada, at its General Council meeting, rejected its Toronto chapter's position in support of the CUPE resolution, instead voting to support investments that fostered the security and economic vitality of both Israel and a future Palestinian state, and to discourage investment that promoted Israel's occupation of the West Bank or the refusal of Israel's neighbors to recognize its right to exist as a Jewish state.

Jewish community organizations considered the university campus a crucial battleground for combating anti-Israel attitudes and activities. Susan Davis, executive vice president of National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL), spoke about this at the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities (UJC) that took place in Los Angeles in November. She argued that the summer war in Lebanon had become an excuse for renewed anti-Israel agitation. The vast majority of Canadian Jewish students, Davis said, had no strong opinions about the Arab-Israeli struggle. Furthermore, although idealistic and generally academically gifted, they often had only a tenuous relationship to Jewish tradition and little detailed Jewish knowledge. Her organization, which coordinated the activities of individual campus Hillel groups, developed a Web site, Road to Peace, specifically geared to college students.

The Arab Students' Collective at the University of Toronto held an Israeli Apartheid Week in February, as the university turned down Hillel's request to compel the sponsors to drop the word "apartheid" from the title. Among the events held during that week were lectures on the alleged

Israel-South Africa connection, ethnic cleansing, the Palestinian right of return, and “myths” of Israeli democracy. Betar-Tagar, a Zionist group, responded with its own Know Radical Islam conference. The featured speaker was Nonie Darwish, an Arab writer who lived in the U.S., who, referring to militant Islam, declared that “there are powerful forces in our culture working against peace.”

York University in Toronto was a major hotbed of anti-Israel sentiment. After Darwish expressed support for Israel and criticized radical manifestations of her own religion in a speech at York in March, Muslim groups claimed she had defamed Islam. Hillel, which sponsored her visit, was condemned by the York Federation of Students for condoning her “racist remarks.” Hillel responded by publicly rejecting Islamophobia, but did not apologize for inviting Darwish and defended her freedom of expression. Various pro-Arab groups at York organized a demonstration calling for the resignations of university president Lorna Marsden and York University Foundation director Julia Koschitzky, and for the university to sever its ties to Israeli corporations and universities.

In November, York students, organized by a number of Arab and left-wing groups, demonstrated against Israel’s security fence. This came a short time after the offices of a pro-Israel group at the student center were vandalized. York’s Hillel president, Adam Hummel, lamented the negative atmosphere. “There is a lot of hostility, much more than last year It’s reaching some sort of climax.” Despite the large Jewish enrollment, he added, it was becoming increasingly uncomfortable to be a Jew on the York campus. Hummel contributed an article to the *CJN* in December in which he blamed “campus politics, the student government and the lack of action on behalf of the administration” for allowing the situation to fester.

York history professor David Noble, who is Jewish, sued 13 Jewish individuals and organizations for allegedly defaming him when they responded in 2004 to a flyer that he had distributed attacking alleged ties between the York University Foundation and supporters of Israel (see *AJYB* 2005, p. 296). He also filed a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission demanding that York no longer cancel classes on the Jewish High Holy Days. A York spokesman said that the university would defend its policy.

Daniel Freeman-Maloy, suspended by Marsden in 2005 for his role in anti-Israel campus protests, had his suspension reversed in court. He then sued York for libel, misfeasance, and breach of academic freedom.

The university fought the suit on technical grounds, but in September the nation's Supreme Court ruled against York, so that the case would now proceed on the merits.

In 2005, B'nai Brith Canada had filed a complaint with the Quebec Human Rights Commission against Concordia University because it had refused to invite former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak to speak. The complaint also alleged that a "poisoned atmosphere" for Jewish students had existed there since 2001. The complaint was withdrawn in April 2006 because the campus atmosphere had improved under its new president. One positive sign was the victory achieved by a moderate slate in the annual student elections in March.

George Galloway, the anti-Israel British MP, addressed a Concordia audience in November. He was quoted in a student newspaper as calling Israel a "terrorist state," and asserting Prime Minister Harper had committed "an act of war" by stopping Canadian aid to the Palestinian Authority.

The Hillel House at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver was vandalized in November, for the third time in as many years.

Anti-Semitism and Racism

B'nai Brith Canada's annual audit of anti-Semitic activity for 2006 showed 935 reported incidents, 13 percent more than in 2005 and the highest number in 25 years. Almost two-thirds of the total was categorized as harassment, one-third as vandalism, and about 3 percent as acts of violence. While incidents were reported in almost every region of the country, close to half occurred in Toronto—where nearly half of Canada's Jews lived—and roughly 25 percent in Montreal. Reporting the findings, Frank Diament, BBC's executive vice president, said, "The acts of harassment and violence are increasing. It's going beyond ordinary vandalism. That means that more individuals are feeling personally threatened, and that's a frightening experience." The problem was underlined in a Toronto police hate-crimes report for 2005, which noted that whereas the number of such offenses declined 19 percent from 2004, Jews were the victims of 84 percent of all hate crimes motivated by religious animus.

B'nai Brith Canada warned the community to watch out for anti-Semitic actions and possibly terrorist attacks as well during the summer, when the Israel-Hezbollah war got underway. Indeed, the BBC audit later found a sharp rise in incidents during that period, including a bomb

threat in July against a Montreal synagogue and subsequent throwing of stones at some of the worshippers when they exited the building. The authors of the audit suggested that the war functioned as a “global trigger phenomenon” for anti-Semitic acts. For the year, people of Arab and/or Muslim background were involved in the commission of 56 incidents, and thus constituted the largest single group of identified perpetrators.

Among the most serious anti-Semitic incidents were the desecration, within a few days in March, of two Montreal synagogues and the Jewish community center. All three buildings were located in the same neighborhood. Vandals smashed windows and did physical damage to a synagogue building in Winnipeg in May, and in that same city considerable damage was done to cemetery headstones in September.

One of the highest-profile attacks involved the throwing of Molotov cocktails into a Jewish school building in the Montreal suburb of Outremont, home to several Hasidic groups. The resulting fire caused considerable damage to the Skver boys’ school. Numerous political leaders condemned the firebombing, and although the police were reluctant to describe the incident as a hate crime, a number of Jewish leaders called it exactly that. Another incident in Montreal occurred toward the end of December, when two large swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans were spray-painted on three buildings that were part of the city’s Jewish Community Campus—including the structure housing Federation CJA—as well as on a nearby synagogue.

Dissemination of anti-Semitism over the Internet was a growing problem. The Canadian Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center became aware of a Farsi-language Web site that recruited suicide bombers and provided a link to a Hamas Web site. After Canadian Friends contacted the Montreal-based Internet service provider (ISP) in May and made it aware that the site violated not only Canadian law but also the service’s own code of conduct, the site was removed.

Richard Warman, an Ottawa attorney who represented the CJC, asked the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission in August to allow ISPs to block two U.S.-based neo-Nazi Web sites that were threatening Warman’s life, but the request was denied on technical grounds. Warman had been active for years in combating racial hatred on the Web, initiating 16 cases. CJC president Ed Morgan expressed disappointment at the CRTC’s failure to act.

Several court cases involving hate content on Web sites were underway. Two Toronto white supremacists were found to have violated the Internet hate laws and were ordered to pay fines, in a decision announced in

March by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. In June, Jean-Sebastien Presseault pleaded guilty in a Quebec court to willfully promoting hatred through his site. Tomasz Winnicki, a London skinhead, was sentenced to nine months in jail in July for defying a court order to stop posting racist messages, including Holocaust denial, on the Internet. Reni Santanar-Ries of Edmonton was sentenced to 16 months in prison in September, after having been convicted in 2005 for using a U.S. Web site to promote hatred of Jews. The sentence was the longest ever imposed in Canada for such a crime, and the judge commented on the appalling level of hatred in his Web postings. And in a case initiated by Richard Warman, another Edmonton man, Glenn Bahr, was fined \$5,000 by the Canadian Human Rights Commission in December for operating a site that promoted hatred against Jews and others.

Bank of Montreal CEO Tony Comper and his wife, Elizabeth, continued to lead a coalition of non-Jewish business and community leaders united under the name Fighting Anti-Semitism Together. Among its projects was a curriculum for students in grades six through eight. Tony Comper himself, in a speech delivered in September in Montreal, cautioned critics of Israeli policies to avoid crossing the line and espousing anti-Semitism.

Three cases of anti-Semitism from previous years remained in the news. David Ahenakew, a former Native American leader, had been convicted in 2005 for willfully promoting hatred against Jews through various public statements (see AJYB 2006, p. 296). But in June 2006, Judge C.J. Laing of Saskatchewan's Court of Queen's Bench overturned the conviction on appeal and ordered a new trial. The Crown said it would appeal the ruling. The firebombing of the United Talmud Torahs school in Montreal in 2004 (see AJYB 2005, pp. 299–300) was not forgotten. Rouba Fahd Elmerhebi, the mother of the convicted bomber, had been out on bail since her arrest in 2004. In 2006, she was charged with being an accessory after the fact, and a trial date was set for 2007. And Yves Michaud, censured by the National Assembly in 2000 for anti-Jewish remarks (see AJYB 2001, p. 288), had his attempt to void the censure turned down by the Quebec Court of Appeal in June 2006.

Holocaust-Related Matters

In the 20 years since the Deschenes Commission cleared the way for war-crimes prosecutions, results were meager despite constant pressure for government action from the Jewish community. Since 1995, when the

program was overhauled, the government managed to bring only 21 cases to court: three of the accused left the country either voluntarily or through deportation, eight had their citizenship lifted for making false statements upon entering Canada, four cases awaited action by the cabinet, and the other accused individuals died in the course of legal proceedings. Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Center came to Canada in June to draw attention to Operation Last Chance, a final effort to get governments to act. A rally was held on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to publicize the initiative. A recent report by the Wiesenthal Center gave Canada a grade of "C" for its record in dealing with suspected war criminals, but Zuroff termed this "overly generous."

Two alleged Nazi war criminals, both over 80, went on trial in St. Catharines in June. Josef Furman and Jura Skomatchuk were accused of lying about their World War II activities, and faced loss of citizenship and deportation. Furman allegedly participated in the liquidation of the Warsaw and Bialystok ghettos, and then served as a concentration camp guard at Flossenburg. Skomatchuk was charged with serving as a guard at the notorious Trawniki SS training camp and at several concentration camps. In August, Judge Judith Snider of Federal Court found that both had indeed misrepresented themselves when they entered the country and in filling out their citizenship applications, thus proving the government's allegations.

Prime Minister Harper spoke at Canadian Holocaust Memorial Day observances in April on Parliament Hill. He linked contemporary threats against Israel with the Nazi Holocaust and vowed not to ignore the announced positions of Hamas and President Ahmadinejad of Iran. Harper said, "Words are not enough. It is only in our vigilance and in our actions that we will honor those who died in places like Dachau and Auschwitz."

Twice during the year artworks that Nazis had looted from Jewish owners and were later purchased by legitimate buyers were returned to the families of the owners. In August the National Gallery of Canada returned a painting by Edouard Vuillard to the descendants of the original Parisian Jewish owner; CJC played a significant role in persuading the gallery to act. In October, the estate of the late Max Stern, a German Jewish art dealer who eventually settled in Montreal, recovered the first of perhaps 400 paintings that the Nazis had forced Stern to relinquish. The recovery of Stern's collection was expected to help two Montreal universities and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, all of which were the beneficiaries of his estate.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Demography

The Jewish People Policy Planning Institute, based in Israel, published comparative demographic data for Jewish communities around the world, and found that Canada, Germany, and Australia were the only Diaspora countries with substantial Jewish population growth between 1970 and 2005. Canada, which grew from 286,000 to 372,000 in that time span, was also one of the very few countries where further growth was anticipated. The JPPPI report noted that the Canadian community was also notable for its high level of day-school attendance and visits to Israel, and for relatively low intermarriage.

Others were not as sanguine. A study issued by Statistics Canada revealed that the percentage of Jews married to someone of another religion jumped from 9 percent in 1981 to 17 percent in 2001. Another study, by Charles Shahar, showed substantially higher intermarriage rates in smaller communities than in the two major ones: 41 percent in Vancouver, 34 in Calgary, 32 in Ottawa, and 23 in Winnipeg, as compared to 13 percent in Montreal and 16 percent in Toronto. Nationally, the rate among younger Jews was much higher than among older Jews.

The *Canadian Jewish News* carried an important piece in January by Prof. Leo Davids about the demography of Canadian Jewry. Davids emphasized the community's low rates of birth and marriage—which mirrored those of the broader society—as well as the relatively high average age of Jews and the growth of intermarriage. Whatever modest growth the community had experienced, he noted, came from immigration, which, if not sustained, would lead to population decline. Davids lamented the lack of action by the community, “despite the dire outlook for the future of Canadian Jewry.” He called for a substantial increase in financial support for matchmaking, aiding young parents, and fostering Jewish education.

Toronto's UJA Federation sponsored a survey of Jews in its area that also provided comparisons with other communities. About 37 percent of Toronto Jews were Conservative, 14 percent Orthodox (the third highest Orthodox concentration on the continent), and 19 percent Reform. About half the respondents reported synagogue membership and about 13 percent attended services at least weekly. Levels of religious observance were higher and intermarriage rates lower than in the rest of North America, only 11 percent reporting a non-Jewish spouse. Nearly 75 percent had vis-

ited Israel at least once, and 47 percent felt “very close” to Israel. Over a third of respondents were sending their children to Jewish day schools, a much higher rate than in the U.S.

A unit of Toronto’s Israeli consulate sponsored a study, *The Israeli Community in the Greater Toronto Area*, which was released in March. It showed that between 1946 and 2004 nearly 65,000 Israelis immigrated to Canada, most settling in the Toronto area. David Gidron, who wrote the report, estimated that about 50,000 Israelis currently resided in and around Toronto, making up about 25 percent of the Jewish population.

Communal Affairs

A number of capital improvements to community facilities were completed or announced during the year. UJA Federation of Greater Toronto decided to build a new facility, to be called the Prosserman Family Jewish Community Center, as a component of the community’s “central square.” It would replace the Bathurst Jewish Community Center. The other three elements composing the square were to be a new Koffler Center for the Arts, a Latner Family Center for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage, and a renovated and expanded Lipa Green Building to house the federation’s offices. The project was slated for completion in 2009. In addition, recognizing the explosive growth of the Jewish community in the far northern suburban area of Vaughan, the federation began construction of the Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus.

In one of the largest charitable gifts ever made to a Canadian Jewish community foundation, Larry and Judy Tanenbaum donated \$50 million to the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto.

Montreal’s community was also expanding into the suburbs, and Federation CJA opened a new center in the West Island city of Dollard des Ormeaux. In Winnipeg, the Asper Jewish Community Campus’s interior space was scheduled for redesign and remodeling.

In a June column in *CJN*, Gerald Gall lamented the decline in the Canadian Jewish Congress’s social-advocacy role. He contended that the organization’s social-justice agenda “seems to have been placed on the back burner,” apparently because of budgetary constraints. Gall felt that the CJC could deal with Jewish issues while at the same time reclaiming its role as “one of the leading voices promoting Canada as a fair, just and equitable society.”

Israel’s summer war against Hezbollah was a major community concern, eliciting special fund-raising drives, public demonstrations, and po-

litical activity. Major rallies were held in late July in Montreal's Dominion Square and Toronto's Center for the Arts, attracting about 2,000 and 8,000 participants respectively. At the Toronto event numerous politicians from all levels of government attended. At the Montreal rally, Rabbi Reuben Poupko praised Prime Minister Harper for his "clarity and honesty," and MP Irwin Cotler blamed the conflict on the Arabs' "unwillingness to accept the legitimacy of a Jewish state." Pro-Israel demonstrations were also held in smaller communities.

Some 376 Canadians immigrated to Israel in 2005, a significant rise from 2003 and 2004, and nearly two-thirds of them were Orthodox. The number of Israelis living in Canada, however, was a sore point for Israel. Minister of Absorption Ze'ev Boim came to Canada in October, together with several colleagues from his department, to try to persuade Israelis to return home. Boim explained to the *CJN* that "we make great efforts in aliyah. Why not reach out to Israelis abroad?"

Based on the findings of recent market research, the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), which was part of UIA Federations Canada, stressed the theme of "shared values," that is, commonalities between Canada and Israel, in its work on college campuses and elsewhere. One consequence of adopting this positive approach was an abandonment of arguments that denigrated Israel's foes.

The Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC) was formed just weeks before the federal election in January. CJPAC, a nonpartisan, independent body supported by non-tax-deductible contributions from its members, was an innovative attempt to advance the political objectives of Canada's Jews. After the election, executive director Josh Cooper termed its first foray into politics a success.

Prof. Alan Dershowitz of Harvard University was the featured speaker at a community rally in December at a Toronto synagogue aimed at drawing attention to the dangers posed by Iran. He told the crowd that he and MP Cotler were drafting an indictment against Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for incitement to genocide, based on his threats against Israel and the Jewish people. Dershowitz described Iran's leader as "this Hitler of the twenty-first century." Other speakers included representatives of the federal and provincial governments.

Members of the Neturei Karta ultra-Orthodox group who participated in the Holocaust-denial conference that took place in December in Tehran were roundly condemned by several rabbis. Thus Rabbi Dovid Schochet, president of the Vaad Harabonim (Rabbinical Council) of Toronto, likened their actions to "embracing Hitler after he killed the

Jews, and saying we're your friend," and Rabbi David Lowy, head of Agudath Israel in Toronto, termed their actions a "chilul HaShem [desecration of God's name], disgusting, repulsive."

Some 100 people, styling themselves the Alliance of Concerned Jewish Canadians, published an open letter to the Jews of Canada explaining why they were distancing themselves from Israeli government policies. In November the group ran an ad in the *CJN* expressing "profound dissatisfaction with the direction in which the leaders of our community have taken us," and claiming that its request to be included as an affiliated organization of CJC had encountered resistance.

In cooperation with Montreal's Federation CJA, seven Israeli universities joined together in January to present the first Israel Universities Fair. Hundreds of students attended, attracted by the opportunity to speak directly with representatives of the various Israeli institutions about educational opportunities,

Religion

In December, the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards issued an opinion that the ordination of gays and lesbians and commitment ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples were acceptable under Jewish law, while also approving another opinion upholding the traditional ban on both (see above, p. 130). This created a stir in Canada, where the Conservative movement tended to be less accepting of such innovations than was the case in the U.S. To be sure, differences between Conservative opinion in the two countries were already noticeable before this decision. Many Conservative synagogues in Canada, for example, had not adopted gender egalitarianism with regard to participation in services. Nevertheless, the decision on gays and lesbians exacerbated tensions.

It was expected that most Canadian Conservative congregations would not accept the permissive ruling. Thus Rabbi Steven Saltzman of Toronto described the responsum that accepted homosexuality as "a social, political, dogmatic, philosophic statement, but it does not come up to Halakhic standards of any sort," and Montreal's Rabbi Lionel Moses said that the ruling "unquestionably" contravened Halakhah. Clearly, the new ruling portended a serious division between the Canadian and American parts of the movement.

Orthodoxy, especially in Toronto, had for some time been moving to the religious right, and questions were raised over whether the influence of "yeshiva world" leaders in the city, especially Rabbi Shlomo Miller,

head of Kollel Avreichim, was pulling the community in an extremist direction. Among the issues that arose during the year were denunciations of a visiting speaker, Rabbi Natan Slifkin, for his allegedly heretical views about creation (see AJYB 2006, p. 107), a decision by a supervisory charity board to stop certifying female charity collectors, and an attempt by the Vaad Harabonim (rabbinical council) to challenge the validity of the city's longstanding *eruv*, which enabled observant Jews to carry items out of doors on Shabbat. Another controversial issue was a tightening of standards for certification of food products as kosher. In defense of the stringencies, Rabbi Mordechai Levin, executive director of the Kashruth Council of Canada, said that the reduction in the use of pesticides meant that more bugs were being found in raw fruits and vegetables.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, secretary of the Vaad Harabonim, defended the increased emphasis on strict observance as a positive development, reflecting the desire of many Jews to comply more fully with the requirements of Jewish law. He contended that the higher quality of Jewish education had led more Orthodox Jews to demand more stringent levels of observance for themselves and others. "This is not a shift to the right," he declared, "it is a shift to the correct."

In an embarrassing situation, the Toronto Board of Rabbis, whose members were overwhelmingly Conservative and Reform rabbis, announced in April that it would not participate in the community's Yom Hashoah commemoration because only the boys from a youth choir were invited to sing. The girls, who made up about two-thirds of the choir, had reportedly been barred from participation in deference to the Vaad Harabonim, which, as a strictly Orthodox body, followed the tradition of not listening to women sing.

Prof. Martin Lockshin of York University, an Orthodox rabbi, published "A Modern Orthodox Manifesto" in the *CJN* in October. Although not labeled as such, it was clearly a contribution to the debate over the influence of right-wing rabbis that had been going on for several months. Lockshin presented a vigorous case for Modern Orthodoxy in terms of observance, commitment to Israel as a religious value, affirmation of the value of secular knowledge, participation in public life, involvement in universal moral causes, and maximum equality for women within the limits of Jewish law, and expressed optimism that his brand of Orthodoxy could flourish in Toronto.

At year's end, the Toronto bet din (religious court) decided to suspend all conversions to Judaism pending resolution of a dispute between the

Israeli rabbinate and Diaspora communities over conversion standards, specifically, what level of religious observance should be demanded of parents who wish to convert an adopted child. Rabbi Saul Emanuel, executive director of Montreal's Vaad Ha'ir, expressed support for a stringent position, indicating that it was already the norm in his city. However other rabbis called for openness to converting adopted children for families that were not yet fully Orthodox, in the expectation of religious growth over time.

Winnipeg's community encountered serious problems when its only kosher butcher lost his kosher certification in a dispute over standards only weeks after the city's only kosher market, which included a delicatessen, closed. The market eventually reopened with kosher certification, but since there was no kosher butcher in town, meat had to be brought in from larger cities like Toronto.

Montreal's Vaad Ha'ir announced in October that it was elevating its standards for kosher certification in the light of a scandal that occurred in Monsey, New York, where unkosher meat was found in a kosher store. New rules required closer supervision at all stages of the process, from slaughterhouse to consumer, and as a result, the Vaad had to look for several new recruits for supervisory positions.

Ontario's Bill 27, an amendment to the Arbitration Act motivated by a desire to prevent the operation of Islamic courts based on sharia, had the effect of weakening the long established bet din system in the Jewish community. Attorney John Syrtash, representing several Orthodox groups, expressed strenuous opposition to the bill, suggesting that it might be unconstitutional and terming it "blatantly unfair." The legislation, passed in February, took no notice of Jewish community objections and prohibited all forms of binding arbitration in family matters that were not carried out in accordance with Canadian law. CJC Ontario's honorary legal counsel Mark Freiman said that the law inaccurately "presumes that faith-based arbitration is innately exploitative and coercive," and Syrtash announced he would challenge it in court.

Education

Toronto's CJA Federation task force on Jewish education released its report in September, focusing on the rising financial challenges faced by the day schools and families that patronized them, especially in light of the province's refusal to provide any funding. Among the many rec-

ommendations were a \$100-million educational endowment fund, a loan program to help parents with tuition, and the transformation of the Board of Jewish Education into a Center for Jewish Education with increased responsibilities, including marketing. The report also urged the maintenance of tuition subsidies at least at current levels. Objections were raised to the proposed loan program on the grounds that it would merely defer the problem faced by the families, not alleviate it. Earlier in the year, provincial opposition leader John Tory expressed his support for public funding, arguing that it was not fair that only Catholic schools, among the various religious institutions, received government support.

Despite the financial crunch, a study conducted for the Board of Jewish Education and released early in the year showed that the percentage of Jewish children enrolled in day or supplementary schools in the Toronto area had increased to 61 percent of children aged 6–13 and 33 percent of those aged 14–17. Moreover, 78 percent of children who started first grade in a Jewish school later went on to a Jewish high school, as compared to about 50 percent 20 years earlier.

In Montreal, where Jewish day schools did benefit from government funding, questions were raised about whether several Hasidic schools adhered to the prescribed official curriculum. After newspaper reports that the Skver Hasidim were not teaching secular subjects at all in their high schools and only part of the required material in their elementary schools, further investigation indicated that at least five other schools were similarly remiss. When it was also revealed that the high schools of Skver, Belz, and Lubavitch did not have the required permits, the Quebec government ordered an investigation. Speaking for Federation CJA, vice president Marc Gold stressed that “it goes without saying that all Quebecers are bound by the laws of society,” and urged the regularization of the status of schools that were not currently complying with the law. Alex Werzberger, a Satmar leader who headed the Coalition of Outremont Hasidic Organizations, acknowledged that Satmar schools did not comply with the law and that the same was true for other Hasidic high schools for boys.

In December, the matter was raised in the National Assembly. Responding, Jean-Marc Fournier, the minister of education, said that he could not close down the Skver high school for boys because it provided only religious training, and was therefore, legally speaking, a religious center and not a school. The situation of the high school for girls, however, which clearly was a “school,” was referred to the justice minister.

Community and Intergroup Relations

Amid the tension over the David Ahenakew affair (see above, p. 292), more than 20 Jewish and aboriginal leaders went on a joint mission to Israel in February, under the auspices of the Assembly of First Nations and CJC. They toured the country and met with governmental leaders, diplomats, and scholars, focusing on agriculture and the preservation of minority languages, both topics of intense interest for the aboriginal group. Afterwards, AFN national chief Phil Fontaine said he had "always believed that the struggle of the Jewish people in so many ways mirrors our own struggle."

During the international flap over the publication of the Danish cartoons offensive to Muslims (see below, pp. 433–35), the *Jewish Free Press*, a newspaper in Calgary, reprinted three of them. Publisher Richard Bronstein said he wanted people to see what the controversy was all about. The Canadian Islamic Congress warned about possible damage to Jewish-Muslim relations and asked for an apology. Bronstein instead offered a Muslim leader the opportunity to write a piece for the *Jewish Free Press*. The Calgary Jewish Community Council dissociated itself from the paper.

A new children's book, *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*, by Deborah Ellis, was the center of considerable controversy in Ontario through much of the year. Critics asserted that it cast Israel in a negative light and featured young Palestinians who aspired to be suicide bombers and kill Jews. The York Region District School Board agreed, and, in January, removed it from a special reading program for older elementary-school students. CJC entered the fray, and school boards in other jurisdictions, such as Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor, and the Niagara Region, agreed that the book was not appropriate for the intended age group, and placed restrictions on access. But the Kingston and London boards bucked the trend and continued to include the book on their reading lists. Various writers' and librarians' groups also opposed the restrictions.

Jewish organizations were quick to denounce vandalism that occurred at a mosque in the Quebec town of Trois-Rivières in April, when anti-Arab and anti-Muslim messages were affixed to the building. Allan Adel, chair of the League for Human Rights of BBC, said that "hatred knows no boundaries, and when one community is under attack, all our communities are at risk." In September, a fire was started at a Muslim school in Ottawa. Drawing a parallel to the firebombing of a Jewish school in Montreal a few weeks earlier, spokespersons for CJC and the Ottawa Federation condemned the arson attack.

A sensitive intergroup issue arose in Montreal, where a YMCA branch stood across an alley from a Satmar yeshiva. The Satmars, concerned that their children would see women in gym attire exercising through the Y's windows, asked the Y to frost the windows and offered to pay the cost. The Y agreed and the job was done. But some 100 Y members then signed a petition complaining about the action because they lost their view and did not get as much light as before. The underlying issue, whether the Y had to conform to the needs of outsiders while doing nothing illegal on its own private property, attracted media attention because of a larger debate going on in Quebec society about "reasonable accommodation," the extent to which a largely secular society should tolerate minority practices that conflicted with the values of the majority.

In 2005, Ontario decided to depart from the previous parliamentary practice of allowing the premier to determine when to hold an election, and instead to declare the first Thursday of October in every fourth year as election day. For the 2007 election, that would coincide with the Jewish holiday of Shemini Atzeret, and therefore CJC tried to mobilize Jewish organizations to lobby for a change in date.

Culture

The Montreal Israeli Theatre, founded by Milli Raviv, staged its first major production in June. *Rabbi Kameach*, by Shmuel Hasfari, was presented in Hebrew, with simultaneous translation in French and English. Another Hebrew production was *Oil City* by Hillel Mitelpunkt, presented in June with English translation by the Hebrew Theatre Workshop of the Jewish Public Library of Montreal. Sholem Asch's powerful *God of Vengeance* was the main presentation of the Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre in Montreal in June. The Yiddish Theatre went on tour to Dresden, Prague, and Vienna in the fall. David Sherman's *Have a Heart*, about a Jewish family with an ailing father trying to cope with the Quebec medical system, premiered at Montreal's Centaur Theatre in June.

Montreal's Saidye Bronfman Centre announced plans in the fall to close its well-known fine-arts school and art gallery after 40 years. Instead, the SBC would now focus on the performing arts, including a new academy. The decision to drop the visual arts, which was quite disappointing to the SBC's clientele, was due to a decision by the YM-YWHA to end its funding for the center's overhead. Under the new system, the SBC would become an agency of Federation CJA, with the Bronfman and Segal families continuing to provide support.

Toronto's Jewish Film Festival, presented in May, screened Israeli films

Summer Story, *Something Sweet*, *The Children's House*, and *Until Tomorrow Comes*, and the Dutch films *The Man Who Sold Eichmann and Mengele* and *Goodbye Holland*. Although the Montreal Jewish Film Festival was suspended for a year because of financial difficulties, an Israeli Film Festival there in June screened six films. The Jerusalem Film Festival, held in July, included a Canadian Retrospective program, and directors Robert Lantos and Atom Egoyan were honored with lifetime achievement awards. Simcha Jacobovici presented his new documentary, *The Exodus Decoded*.

The world premiere of the documentary *Chez Schwartz* by Garry Beitel took place at the Calgary International Film Festival in September, telling the story of the famed Montreal delicatessen. *The Making of a Martyr*, Brooke Goldstein's documentary about Palestinian child suicide bombers, won the Best Film Audience Choice Award at the United Nations Documentary Film Festival in April. The first Alex and Ruth Dworkin Prize for the promotion of tolerance through film went to *Steel Toes*, by Arnie Gelbert and Francine Allaire, about a neo-Nazi skinhead accused of murder and his Jewish lawyer. The film had its world premiere and received the prize during Les Rendez-Vous du Cinema Quebecoise in Montreal in February.

Several television documentaries of Jewish interest were broadcast during the year. They included *Encounters with Moses*, the story of media mogul Moses Znaimer, by Mike Sheerin; *Life and Times of Michael Kohl*, the concert promoter, by Barry Avrich; *The Outsider: The Life and Times of Robert Lantos* by Peter Gentile; *Disengaging Democracy* by Igal Hecht, about the pullout from Gaza; and Jonathan Finkelstein's *Braindamadj'd*, the story of television director Paul Nadler's terrible brain injury in a Sinai auto accident and his long struggle to overcome the effects. Documentaries that were screened at various venues included Sydney Pollack's *Sketches of Frank Gehry*; *Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man* by Lian Lunson; Ronit Avni's *Encounter Point*, about Israelis and Palestinians who seek peace; and Frederic Bohbot's *Once a Nazi . . .*, about a Montreal academic who came to terms with his Waffen SS background some 50 years after the war.

The Art Gallery of Ontario, designed by Toronto native Frank Gehry, held an exhibit based on several of his projects beginning in February. Simultaneously, the University of Toronto Art Centre exhibited Gehry's drawings for eight museums that he designed. The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada in Winnipeg held an exhibit in November about the life of Samuel Freedman, Manitoba's first Jewish chief justice.

The Blue Metropolis international literary festival, held in Montreal

in April, featured elaborate tributes to two distinguished writers who came from the city, Saul Bellow and Irving Layton. Bellow's widow and Layton's daughter participated in panel discussions about the authors. Both events were later broadcast on CBC radio.

Radio Shalom, in Montreal, began broadcasting Jewish programming in Hebrew, English, and French.

Publications

Pierre Elliot Trudeau was the darling of Montreal's Jews and represented the most heavily Jewish constituency in the country in Parliament for nearly 20 years. Yet as a young man he had been unable to distance himself from the ideas of such men as Lionel Groulx and Charles Maurras, both of whom were tainted with anti-Semitic ideology. Max and Monique Nemni dealt with this paradox in *Young Trudeau: Son of Quebec, Father of Canada 1919–1944*, translated from French into English by William Johnson. The book, based on Trudeau's papers, showed the extent to which he was involved in ethnocentric Quebec nationalism in the early 1940s. At the time, Trudeau downplayed the threat of Germany, opposed participation in the war, and idolized right-wing leaders like Marshal Phillipe Pétain.

Hillary Rodham Clinton: Polarizing First Lady by Gil Troy focused on the current presidential candidate's eight years as a president's wife. Insights into the Washington scene from a much different perspective were presented in *The Washington Diaries: 1981–1989* by Allan Gotlieb, who was Canada's ambassador to the U.S. during the Reagan years. The book revealed, among other things, that Prime Minister Trudeau felt "double-crossed" by Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin over the injection of the Jerusalem issue into the 1978 Canadian election campaign, and as a result "refused for a long time to meet with any Canadian Jewish leader."

Several important biographical treatments of Canadian Jews appeared. *Bora Laskin: Bringing Law to Life* by Philip Girard was an admiring biography of Canada's first Jew on the Supreme Court, who then became chief justice and left a lasting imprint on the country's legal system. Former prime minister Jean Chrétien's adviser and confidante Eddie Goldenberg wrote an insider's view of government during a very turbulent period in *The Way It Works: Inside Ottawa*. The opposite side of partisan politics was illuminated by Hugh Segal in *The Long Road Back: The Conservative Journey: 1993–2006*, in which Senator Segal described his attraction to the Conservative option at a time when Jews were over-

whelmingly Liberal. Ada Craniford's *Mordecai Richler: A Life in Ten Novels* made the argument that the late writer integrated elements of his own life into his writing, and was also inspired, at some points, by the Bible. Ruth Panofsky's *The Force of Vocation: The Literary Career of Adele Wiseman* examined the complex and troubled life of a writer of great promise who encountered many difficulties later on.

Journalist Noah Richler crisscrossed the country collecting data for *This Is My Country, What's Yours? A Literary Atlas of Canada*. Richler examined the fiction written by leading Canadian writers to try to achieve an understanding of the essence of Canadian identity. A clear love for Montreal was evident in Joe King's *Baron Byng to Bagels: Tales of Jewish Montreal* and in Bill Brownstein's *Schwartz's Hebrew Delicatessen: The Story*.

Several books on the Holocaust were published, including *There Is an Apple in My Freezer: A True Story* by Zanetta Nestel; *At the Mercy of Strangers: Survival in Nazi-Occupied Poland* by Gitel Hopfeld, translated by Simcha Simchovitch; Chava Rosenfarb's *The Cattle Cars Are Waiting, 1942-1944*, translated by Goldie Morgentaler; Peter Simonstein Cullman's *History of the Jewish Community of Schneidemuhl: 1641 to the Holocaust*; *I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors* by Bernice Eisenstein; Eric Koch's *I Remember the Location Exactly*; and *Tricks of Fate: Escape, Survival and Rescue* by Morris Gruda, translated by Adam Fuerstenberg.

Other nonfiction works include Sabina Citron's *The Indictment: The Arab-Israeli Conflict in Historical Perspective*; Laura Brandon's *Art or Memorial: The Forgotten History of Canada's War Art*; Yakov Rabkin's attack on Zionism from an ultra-Orthodox perspective, *A Threat from Within: A Century of Jewish Opposition to Zionism*; *The Bronfmans: The Rise and Fall of the House of Seagram* by Nicholas Faith; and *Brothers of Iron* by Joe and Ben Weider with Mike Steere. An important work of history, *Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century* by Gershon David Hundert, covered the rise of Hasidism, the evolving responsibilities of community leadership, interactions with the Church, interest in Kabbalah, and persistent anti-Semitism.

Among the books of fiction were *Suite Française* by Irene Nemirovsky; *Kippour* by Marc-Alain Wolf; *L'Homme qui voulait changer le monde* by Raphael Levy; *The Minyan* by Alvin Abram; *Matters of Hart* by Marianne Ackerman; *The City Man* by Howard Akler; *The House on Lippincott* by Bonnie Burstow; and *Nelcott Is My Darling* by Golda Fried. Volumes of poetry included *September Rain* by Seymour Mayne; *Post-*

modern Light by Paul Hartal; *Drunk From the Bitter Truth* by Anna Margolin, translated by Shirley Kumove; *40 Years of Poetry* by Jack Gelman; and *Surviving the Censor: The Unspoken Words of Osip Mandelstam* by Rafi Aaron.

Among recipients of Canadian Jewish Book Awards in May were Edeet Ravel for *A Wall of Light*; Michael Posner for *The Last Honest Man: Mordecai Richler, an Oral Biography*; Eliezer Segal for *From Sermon to Commentary: Expounding the Bible in Talmudic Babylonia*; Renee Norman for *True Confessions*; Richard Menkis and Norman Ravvin for *The Canadian Jewish Studies Reader*; Sara Ginaite-Rubinson for *Resistance and Survival*; Isabel Vincent for *Bodies and Souls*; Lynne Kositsky for *The Thought of High Windows*; and Mervin Butovsky and Ode Garfinkle for *The Journals of Yaacov Zipper, 1950–1982*.

Personalia

Marshall Rothstein was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. Neil Drabkin became chief of staff to the Minister of Public Safety. Sam Katz was reelected mayor of Winnipeg. Richard Levin and Michael Goldbloom were appointed vice principals at McGill University. Charles Ohayon was named president of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.

The following received the Order of Canada: Companion—Bernard Ostry; Officer—Gerald Schwartz; Members—Clayton Ruby and Steven Cummings. Donald Carr and Leon Katz were named to the Order of Ontario and Arnold Frieman to the Order of Manitoba.

Linda Kislowicz was appointed executive vice president of UIA Federations Canada and Barbara Farber was elected president. Moishe Smith was elected president of B'nai Brith International. UJA Federation in Toronto named David Engel to chair its board and Richard Diamond became chair of National Jewish Campus Life. Ted Lyons was elected president of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, and Graham Dixon president of the Jewish National Fund for Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Sue Holtzman became president of Na'amat Canada and Talia Klein executive director of Betar-Tagar Canada.

Well-known members of the community who passed away during the year: In January, renowned poet, teacher, and writer Irving Layton, aged 93; prominent philanthropist and cofounder of Birthright Israel Andrea Bronfman, aged 60; Leonard Kitz, former mayor of Halifax, aged 89; former Toronto schoolboard member Mae Waese, aged 74; community

worker Lily Barr, aged 81; Sam Ruth, longtime executive director of Toronto's Baycrest Centre, aged 84; and Abe Luxenberg, leader of the Maccabi movement, aged 82. In February, community leader Lester Lazarus, aged 84. In March, Rabbi Sol Tanenzapf, aged 69; and Rudolf Vrba, author, neurologist, and Auschwitz escapee who publicized the truth about the death camp, aged 82. In April, educator Ethel Raicus, aged 86. In May, prominent civil servant Bernard Ostry, aged 78; theater director and playwright Marion Andre, aged 86; and legal scholar and medical ethicist Barney Sneiderman, aged 68. In June, bridge champion Ralph Cohen, aged 79. In July, Thom Farkas, an Israel Air Force pilot killed in action, aged 23; and businessman and writer Edgar Horace Cohen, aged 92. In August, Edwin (Eddie) Goodman, prominent corporation lawyer, Conservative Party activist, and philanthropist, aged 87; Holocaust survivor, educator, and author Ann Kazimirski, aged 84; artist Stanley Lewis, aged 76; celebrated composer John Weinzweig, aged 93; and writer and former alderman Isadore Wolch, aged 98. In September, Bertram Loeb, founder of the IGA supermarket chain, aged 90; and educator Shani Kurtz, aged 77. In October, journalist Sid Adilman, aged 68; Clara Balinsky, distinguished community volunteer, former president of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, and leader of numerous causes, aged 86; and survivor and Nazi hunter Joseph Riwash, aged 93. In November, former football player Jim Miller, aged 74; businessman and municipal politician Irving Paisley, aged 87; Alexander Grossman, businessman and philanthropist, aged 87; lawyer and community leader Wolfe Goodman, aged 81; community leader Monty Berger, aged 88; Avraham David Niznik, chief rabbi of Montreal, aged 85; and former ORT leader J.A. Lyone Heppner, aged 89. In December, Holocaust survivor and international Jewish lobbyist Philip Katz, aged 82; and Henry (Zvi) Weinberg, scholar of French literature, activist for Soviet Jewry, and retired member of the Knesset, aged 71.