

be forthcoming. In the United States, President-Elect Bill Clinton has expressed his general support for the agreement as written, while stipulating that his reservations regarding the need to strengthen environmental protection and job protection provisions can be addressed through "side agreements" with the governments of Mexico and Canada. This approach by the new president should result in the agreement receiving approval in the U.S. Congress before the expiry of the fast-track negotiating authority on June 1.

#### FEDERAL CABINET SHUFFLE

The new year began with a minor rearrangement in the composition of the federal Cabinet. Having previously indicated that they would not be seeking re-election, the prime minister announced, on January 4, that Jake Epp, minister of energy, Marcel Masse, minister of defence, Robert de Cotret, secretary of state, Gerald Merrithew, minister of veterans' affairs, and William Winegard, minister of science, were retiring from Cabinet. In turn, the prime minister transferred Kim Campbell from Justice to a new Department of Defence and Veter-

ans' Affairs. In other moves, Pierre Blais was shifted from Consumer and Corporate Affairs to Justice, while Pierre Vincent, a newcomer to the front benches, assumed responsibility for the former ministry. Also, William McKnight was moved to Energy, Mines and Resources from Agriculture. Charles Mayer became the new agriculture minister while retaining responsibility as minister of state for grains and oilseeds. Furthermore, Monique Landry became secretary of state, while Thomas Hockin assumed responsibility for science, as well as being minister of state for small businesses and tourism. Mary Collins retained her position as minister responsible for the status of women while gaining responsibility for western economic diversification. Finally, Pauline Browes became minister of state for employment and immigration.

#### NEW AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON

On January 6, the prime minister appointed General John de Chastelain, the former chief of defence staff, to be the next Canadian ambassador to the United States.

The appointment caught many foreign affairs analysts by surprise, given General de Chastelain's lack of background and experience in the field of trade policy. The general himself, however, was quick to assert that he will immediately devote himself to becoming briefed in the intricacies of the Canadian-U.S. trade relationship, while stressing that his former position provided him with ample experience in managing complex policy fields and engaging in foreign-diplomatic relations. The appointment may also suggest that the federal government is anticipating that international peacekeeping and "peacemaking" initiatives may increase in coming years, with this country thus needing a well-respected military expert closely involved in the Washington diplomatic community. Meanwhile, the vice chief of defence staff, Admiral John Anderson will assume General de Chastelain's responsibilities until a replacement is named by Kim Campbell, the new minister of defence.

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## CANADA WATCH CALENDAR

December 5	Ralph Klein chosen as premier of Alberta, defeating Nancy Betkowski in a runoff election.	January 23	Prince Edward Island Liberal party to choose successor to retiring Premier Joe Ghiz.
December 17	North American Free Trade Agreement was signed by Prime Minister Mulroney and by Presidents Bush and Salinas.	February 1	House of Commons resumes sitting.
January 4	Federal Cabinet shuffle announced by Prime Minister Mulroney, featuring retirements of five ministers and the move of Kim Campbell from Justice to Defence.	Late February	Implementing legislation for North American Free Trade Agreement to be tabled in the House of Commons.
			Federal budget
		March 2	Last day for submission of North American Free Trade Agreement (and any associated agreements) to U.S. Congress under "fast-track" negotiating authority.