

Connections

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE - MID-ATLANTIC/GREAT LAKES

No confidence. The Martin Minority Government Falls.

The government of Prime Minister **Paul Martin** toppled last week after a Parliamentary vote of “no-confidence.” For our Southern neighbours, there is no direct election of Canada’s chief executive. Rather, the legislative branch forms a coalition under which the leader of the principal political party assumes the post. It sounds easy, but when the coalition falls apart, as last week, the entire legislature must go home to each “riding” for re-election. Mr. Martin, one of the world’s wealthiest individuals, has been often snubbed by Pres. **George Bush**, and also has been quite unfairly characterized as anti-U.S. because of Canada’s non-participation in the Iraq War. (**Canada Forces are** deployed in Afghanistan, the Balkans and other “peacekeeping” areas.) The vote of no-confidence was 171-133, ending a 17 months’ government that was accomplished through a “minority” alliance between the **Liberal Party** (133 seats of 308 in the House of Commons) and the **New Democratic Party** (“NDP” with only 18 seats). The **Progressive Conservative Party** (98 seats), led by **Stephen Harper** (who could be the next P.M.), joined with the NDP, the separatist **Bloc Québécois** (53 seats) and 2 independents in forcing the first Christmas and winter campaign in 26 years. Why? A scandal where members of the government were accused of taking kickbacks and giving \$ 85M in government advertising to Liberal-friendly firms which did little or no work beyond participating in the fraud. While Mr. Martin was not directly accused, a **Royal Commission** report suggested he was either incompetently ignorant of the activity or did nothing to stop the practice. An election in January will introduce other issues among the candidates such as reversing same-sex marriage and improving relations with the U.S. Polls suggest that there will be no upcoming majority; only another Liberal leader, unless the public rebukes the party. Stay tuned! Canada politics, with four parties and 1/10th the population of the U.S., could be entertaining fare over the Holidays!

DECEMBER, 2005

UPcoming Events

CANADIAN CUSTOMS SEMINAR

Sponsored by the Canadian Association of Importers
and Exporters

Wednesday, December 7, 2005, 8a.m.-12 noon
Ruby Foo’s Hotel, 7655 boul. Dakar, Montréal
\$ 35/person

CANADA MEDIA FOR U.S. ADVERTISERS

Wednesday, December 14, 2005, 4:00 p.m.
The Copley Plaza, Boston
No Charge

INTERNATIONAL TRADE SEMINAR

Co-sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration

Friday, December 16, 2005, 10:00 a.m.-1:00p.m.
Monmouth University, Bey Hall, 2nd Floor,
Monmouth NJ
\$ 35/person, includes luncheon

ANNUAL BOXING DAY SOCIAL EVENT

Cocktails for Canadian expats only

Monday, December 26, 2005, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
The Prime Rib, 17th and Locust Streets, Philadelphia
Cash bar

FREE TRADE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE CAFTA AND NAFTA

Presented by the U.S. Department of Commerce
with the participation of the Canadian American Chamber of
Commerce

Friday, January 13, 2006, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon
Bucks County Community College, Newtown PA
\$ 35/person

happy
holidays!

keep these dates

March 7, 2006 - PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL DAY

March 9, 2006 - CAN AM CHAMBER LUNCHEON WITH BILL RYAN, PRESIDENT OF TD BANK NORTH, PHILADELPHIA PA

March 21, 2006 - CANADIAN PUBLISHERS EXPO AT BOOKTECH, NEW YORK NY

Canada.U.S.A.Trade-Ops.

CANADIAN-GERMAN AUTO INDUSTRY "MUSICAL CHAIRS: THYSSEN KRUPP TO BUY CANADIAN STEEL-MAKER DOFASCO; PORSCHE SELLS O.E.M. UNIT TO CANADA-BASED MAGNA. German conglomerate **Thyssen Krupp**, Essen, will pay \$ 4.1B to acquire Canada's #2 steelmaker **Dofasco**, while **Porsche** will sell its convertible-top manufacturing business to **Magna**, Canada's largest O.E.M. to the automotive industry. **Ekkehard Schulz**, C.E.O. of Thyssen Krupp was in Toronto last week where he outbid an offer from France's **Arcelor** (the world's second largest steelmaker) for Dofasco. He stated he was optimistic that his company's concurrent bid for **Atlas Eletronik** would also be accepted. "We are starting a new growth phase," he said, underscoring that his "elevators-to-submarines" diversification was backed by € 1B in non-steel buyouts.

UN-LORDLY CONRAD BLACK ON \$ 20M BAIL. Ex-Canadian **Conrad Black**, 62, whomade billions in Canada, and then gave up his citizenship in order to be knighted by the Queen, returned to his "ex-country" last week. He posted bail in Chicago where his ex-company, **Hollinger**, owns the **Chicago Sun-Times**. He faces eleven counts of fraud related to siphoning company funds and receiving extensive corporate perks during a divestiture of of hundreds of local newspapers in Canada and the U.S. Each count carries a sentence of five years plus a \$ 250,000 fine.

CANADA TRADERS CAN DOWNLOAD INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC VIDEOS. The **Embassy of the United States** (490 Sussex Road, Ottawa ON K1N 1G8) is producing a series of "video factsheets" to assist international traders. **Thomas Lee Boam**, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs (613/688-5217) will develop a video factsheet for any industry, by request from a U.S. company. Downloads are the following web addresses: www.docsinbox.net/Factsheets/Factsheets.html. These are low resolution for speed, but the Embassy will provide CD/DVD, again on request.

CANADA GOVERNMENT IN THE BEDROOM. Unimaginable in the U.S., our Federal government tries to get Canadians to reproduce. We have bedtime erotic tv shows paid by tax dollars. Now, this week, the Parliament will take up tax breaks for having children. Legal same-sex marriages, of course, don't help. Go to theglobeandmail.com to follow on.

Welcome New Members

Chestnut Hill College (Higher education institution with special international business programs in the French language) Philadelphia PA 19118: 9601 Germantown Avenue; 215/248-7180; 215/248-7155 Fax; John J. Gerace, Ph.D.,P.E. geracej@chc.edu
chc.edu

Comcast/Spectacor (Home of the *Philadelphia Flyers N.H.L. Team and other spectator sports*) Philadelphia PA 19148: 3601 S. Broad Street; 215/952-5996; Joe Watson, Sales Executive.
jwatson@comcastspectacor.com
comcastspectacor.com

Datachrome (Fine colour printing and finishing) Laval QC H7P 6B2: 2875 rue Jules Brillant; 450/973-4600; 450/973-8733 Fax; Pierre Handfield, V.P. Sales.
datachrome.com

Ken Clark International (Executive recruitment and consulting) Wayne PA 19087: 328 Conestoga Road, Suite 100; 610/995-2249; 610/995-2283 Fax; and Lawrenceville NJ 08648: 2000 Lenox Drive, Suite 200; 609/308-5200; 609/308-5250 Fax; Bonnie Sharps, V.P. Life Sciences and Technology Practice.
sharpsb@kenclark.com
kenclark.com

W.E. Loopesko & Associates Inc. (International labour providers and consultants) Denver CO 80206: 860 Fillmore Street; 720/212-0780; 610/980-3420; Windham Eugene Loopesko, Principal.
windham@loopesco.com
loopesco.com

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES!

It's time for YOU to join your ex-pat Canadian business associates and friends from both sides of the border.

Simply go to the CanAm Chamber website:

canamcc.org

and sign up. We need the continued support of our Canadians in the Mid-Atlantic area. Welcome!

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