

Mainstream Canada - Bullock battling for tax "fairness"

by W. ROGER WORTH

"Canada's tax department needs checks and balances to ensure Revenue Canada assessors and collectors, and their bosses, don't ride roughshod over individuals and businesses, thus downgrading the trust that is necessary for the system to be effective."

That's the view of John Bulloch, President of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, an organization that represents 64,000 of the Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises that have been placed on the firing line as a result of Revenue Canada's hard-line attitude.

Bulloch, quite rightly, is talking about checks and balances that will make the tax system fairer, in addition to placing limits on the seemingly uncontrollable department that, by law, considers individuals guilty until they are proven innocent.

The overall problem with the tax department, he believes, starts at the top.

"We've had 12 Ministers of Revenue in the last 15 years, so power has gone to the bure-

aucrats, who seem to believe everyone is a tax cheat," he says. "Ministers don't stay around long enough to learn the complexities of the Tax Act."

Nevertheless, Bulloch says there are solutions to many of the problems. Among his suggestions:

- That Revenue Canada be forced to pay accounting and legal costs for individuals and businesses that successfully challenge decisions made by the department's assessor.

"Such a system is simple justice," he believes. "As it stands, appealing tax decisions is most times more costly than paying the additional tax."

Bulloch points out that forcing RevCan to pay costs would allow the public to assess the department's efficiency, ensuring that some tax officials were not bringing forward frivolous cases. It would also provide a daily reminder to tax assessors that a sloppy reassessment could cost the department money.

- That taxpayers be provided with detailed information on their tax situation before they are

re-assessed, thus reducing the amount of paper-burden, red-tape and appeal activity.

- That taxpayers who are appealing the de-

partment's claim not be forced to pay the reassessment until they have had their day in court. As it stands, the additional money gen-

rally must be paid before the appeal can be heard.

"The present system favors the all-powerful

tax department so much that it is sometimes used to cover up RevCan employee mistakes," Bulloch believes. "I fully understand we need tax

audits to keep the system honest, but the auditing and collection methods have to be scrupulously fair."

Northern Affairs - Canadian Citizenship

by JANE E. GREER

A Canadian Citizen is a person who possesses Canadian Citizenship or Nationality and who enjoys the highest order of rights that Canada can offer.

As a Canadian, you have the right to full political participation (to vote and to run for political office in federal and in some provincial elections you must be a Canadian citizen); you have the privilege of travelling outside Canada on a Canadian passport; the right to assistance by Canada in most foreign countries; the right of re-entry into Canada,

and the right to full economic right in Canada.

A person can possess Canadian Citizenship by birth or through a process of naturalization. To obtain Canadian Citizenship through Naturalization, a person must:

- be legally admitted to Canada as a permanent resident (landed immigrant)
- live in Canada for a minimum of 3 complete years within the 4 years immediately before your application for citizenship
- be able to speak either French or English
- show that you are of good character
- have knowledge of the

responsibilities and privileges of Canadian citizenship

- intend to live in Canada as a permanent resident and
- be ready to comply with the oath of allegiance to Canada.

If a person meets the above criteria, then there are three steps to becoming a Canadian citizen. First an application for citizenship is made; second the person must appear before the Citizenship Court for a hearing (interview); and lastly, to return to the Court to take the Oath of Citizenship and receive the Canadian

Citizenship Certificate at a ceremony of presentation.

To apply for Canadian Citizenship, a person should contact their nearest Court of Canadian Citizenship Office, and bring with them their passport-travel documents used on entry to Canada or their birth certificate and their immigration record as well as the appropriate fee and photographs.

Citizenship photographs must be two identical, unmounted photos (taken within the last 12 months) showing a full front view of

the head and shoulders without head covering. The photos must be 44 mm (1 3/4 ") x 44 mm (1 3/4 ") plus a 13 mm (1/2 ") white signature strip at the bottom. The fee to file your application is \$15.00 for adults and \$8.00 for minor children under the age of 18 years.

For further information on becoming a Canadian citizen, please contact your nearest Court of Canadian Citizenship Office or the Northern Affairs Office located on the lower floor Peninsula Building, Marathon. Telephone 229-1153 or Zenith 33160.

Northern Affairs hosts seminars



Northern Affairs Officers from around the Northwest met in Thunder Bay, April 17-18 for their regional meeting. As well as meeting Ministry staff from the Toronto office they held seminars with other federal and provincial departments. The topics included consumer laws, labour standards, vehicle and driver licences, and volunteer fire teams supported by Northern Affairs. From the left are: Phil Mostow (Ignace), Francesco

Morelli (Geraldton), Bev Young (Thunder Bay), Janice Tomkinson (Atikokan), Joe Kaliska (Rainy River), Ken Pride (Kenora), Dave Bourgeault (Fort Frances), Ron Willis (Thunder Bay), Don Myles (Supervisor), Pat Wallace (Red Lake), Merv Wilson (Sioux Lookout), Brian England (Dryden) and Micheline Riopelle of Sault Ste. Marie.

The Schreiber Recreation Committee invite you to their



Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday, May 17th
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Tickets will be available
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Adults: \$3.00

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For Appointments phone: 825-9545

O.P.P. "Golden Helmets" on tour

The Ontario Provincial Police motorcycle precision team, the "Golden Helmets" will be making even more appearances this year as the provincial force celebrates its 75th anniversary.

For the first time, an extensive tour of Northern Ontario will take the Golden Helmets to the Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Kenora areas. A number of performances are planned between July 26th and

August 6th.

The O.P.P. Golden Helmets is a volunteer team of traffic patrol officers. They ride Harley-Davidson Police Special motorcycles in a dazzling display of expert motorcycle handling. The emphasis is on precision, not daredevil stunts. Performances by the Golden Helmets feature split second timing, complete machine control and total coordination between the team members.

Motorcycles have been used by O.P.P. officers to patrol Ontario highways since 1930. In those days, the officers supplied their own machines; today, the

motorcycles are still most effective in heavy traffic areas.

The O.P.P. reached the age of 75 years in 1984, and a series of events have been scheduled to celebrate this fact. The Golden Helmets will be seen in more parades and performances than ever before.

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