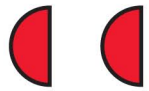


NEWS IN REVIEW



MARCH 2008



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News in Review

Resource Guide

March 2008



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***News in Review*, March 2008**

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2. Restarting the Chalk River Reactor

(Start: 14:10; Length: 13:34)

3. The Campaign for the White House

(Start: 27:54; Length: 16:27)

4. Cyber Thieves and Identity Theft

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THE MANLEY REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN (Start: 00:24; Length: 13:59)

In late January, a government appointed commission headed by former Liberal cabinet minister John Manley released a report on Canada's mission in Afghanistan. The report recommended that Canadian troops should keep fighting in that country, but only if certain conditions are met. In this *News in Review* story we'll look at the Manley Report and the political storm it ignited.

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RESTARTING THE CHALK RIVER REACTOR (Start: 14:10; Length: 13:34)

In December a shutdown at Ontario's Chalk River nuclear reactor led to a worldwide shortage of medical isotopes. Despite safety issues, the government, with the support of the other parties, ordered the reactor restarted. In this *News in Review* story we'll examine the controversial decision and the political fallout that followed.

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE (Start: 27:54; Length: 16:27)

In February, the race to choose the next president of the United States heated up. The two main parties, the Democrats and the Republicans, held a series of primaries and caucuses to determine which candidate should represent them. In this *News in Review* story we'll look at both party's candidates and at the issues shaping their campaigns.

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CYBER THIEVES AND IDENTITY THEFT (Start: 44:33; Length: 13:40)

Identity theft is a growing problem for Internet users. Criminals can use a number of ways to gain access to confidential information like credit card numbers. In this *News in Review* story we'll show you how these cyber thieves operate and why it's so hard to catch them. We'll also look at some practical steps Internet users can take to protect their identities from being stolen.

Related CBC Videos

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THE MANLEY REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

Introduction

Focus

Two and half years after taking on the toughest military assignment in Afghanistan, Canadian politicians put their commitment to the mission at the top of their agenda. This *News in Review* story examines the release of the Manley Report and the national debate over whether or not to continue Canada's contribution to the war in Afghanistan.

Note

The official name of Manley's committee and the report they prepared is the Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan. Many media outlets adopted the unofficial name the "Manley Report" when referring to the final document that included the panel's findings.

John Manley appeared before the media, report in hand, to deliver the most controversial recommendation of his intensive three-month study of Canada's role in Afghanistan. "The mission is in jeopardy," Manley explained. "There simply are not enough troops to ensure that the job can be properly done in Kandahar province . . . we hope that this [report] is not a poison pill. We need to be very direct with NATO" ("Extend Afghan mission if NATO sends more troops," *cbc.ca*). In one bold pronouncement, Manley and his panel delivered their verdict, praising Canadian troops for their valour but calling for an end to the mission if NATO doesn't provide more troops in the battle against insurgents in Kandahar.

Harper's Afghanistan Dilemma

By the fall of 2007 it had become clear that the Afghan National Security Forces, comprising both the army and the police, would not be ready by 2009 to take over from NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in the battle against insurgents. Facing this dilemma, Prime Minister Stephen Harper felt compelled to find a way to extend the Canadian mission until at least 2011.

Harper and his Conservative colleagues demonstrated their support for the Canadian mission in Afghanistan shortly after winning a minority government in 2006. Despite the risk of seeing their government brought down over the issue, the Conservatives put forward a motion to extend the Afghan mission to February 2009. Fearing repercussions from a vote-weary electorate, Parliament backed the extension, with the motion passing by a mere four votes. This boldness in

the face of potential electoral adversity proved to be the hallmark of the Harper approach to the war in Afghanistan. Clearly sold on the fundamental righteousness of the mission, Harper and the Conservatives moved full-steam ahead in their efforts to back the military's quest to bring stability to Kandahar. They authorized the purchase of new equipment and agreed to bolster the ranks of the Canadian Forces (CF) through aggressive recruitment. They pledged over a billion dollars to Afghanistan to aid in reconstruction, infrastructure development, and the promotion of democratic institutions. Reports from CF personnel indicate that the training of the Afghan National Security Forces is going well, and the efforts of Canada's Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) are finally making a noticeable difference in Kandahar. Despite these seemingly positive developments, public opinion polls across Canada have never shown widespread support for the war effort. While Canadians are proud of the CF, they are divided over whether or not Canada should be risking the lives of their soldiers in Afghanistan.

The Blue Ribbon Panel

In the fall of 2007, Harper made public his belief that the mission should stretch beyond February 2009. Once again, he was willing to put his government on the line to get an extension—and he had a few tricks up his sleeve to get what he wanted. Perhaps one of the most astute political strategists Ottawa has seen in decades, Harper sent the Liberals into fits with the appointment of one of their own to head a blue-ribbon panel looking into the Afghan mission. Former Chrétien cabinet minister and Liberal star John

Further Research

To stay informed about this difficult mission, consider visiting the Web sites of the ISAF (www.nato.int/isaf), Canadian Forces (www.forces.gc.ca) and the PRTs (www.canada-afghanistan.gc.ca).

Who's Who

The members of the panel that wrote the report were John Manley, Canada's former deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Derek Burney, former Canadian ambassador to the United States; Pamela Wallin, former Canadian consul general in New York City and well-known broadcaster; Paul Tellier, former clerk of the Privy Council; and the Honourable Jake Epp, a former federal cabinet minister.

Manley, a vocal and passionate supporter of Canada's efforts in Afghanistan, readily accepted Harper's invitation to chair the panel. Manley's panel got to work quickly and efficiently, convening four meetings in Ottawa, New York, Washington, and Brussels. The panel also took part in a four-province tour of Afghanistan. All this activity took place within a two-month time frame. By the end of 2007, the meetings were finished and the report was in the works, slated for release early in the new year.

The Manley Report

To the surprise of many Canadians, Manley's panel reported that the situation in the southern and eastern regions of Afghanistan had gradually become destabilized over the previous year. The panel concluded that the best way to combat the problem of instability was to bring in more NATO troops to support those doing the most fighting: namely the Canadians in Kandahar.

Noting that Canadians are suffering the highest fatality rate of any NATO partner, the Manley panel directed the government to pull Canadian troops out of Afghanistan if NATO did not provide a battle group of 1 000 soldiers by February 2009. The panel told the Canadian government to purchase helicopters to transport troops in an effort to minimize the risk of roadside bomb deaths and suicide attacks on Canadian convoys on Kandahar's dangerous roadways. The panel also called for the purchase of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for surveillance purposes. Further, Manley's report soundly criticized the Canadian government for failing to clearly communicate the reasons for our military involvement in Afghanistan to the Canadian people. The panel put forward the belief that public support would only follow candour and honesty regarding the mission. The

panel also advised the government to co-ordinate the war effort, shifting away from an almost exclusively military approach to one that involved more action and input from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the panel's opinion, the leader of this initiative should be the Prime Minister himself.

Reactions

The release of the Manley Report put NATO on notice that Canadians were tired of carrying the burden of the fighting in Kandahar. Canadian troops needed help and, if NATO wasn't willing to provide troops and equipment, Canada should withdraw from the volatile region. A Canadian withdrawal would have devastating repercussions for the people of Kandahar, not to mention disastrous consequences for the credibility of the NATO-led effort in Afghanistan. The troop commitment issue was at the top of the diplomatic agenda heading into the NATO meeting of heads of state in Bucharest, Romania, in April 2008.

At home, politicians took stock of their own positions. The Conservatives agreed to follow the recommendations of the Manley report and put forward a motion to extend the mission based on the panel's findings. The Liberals drafted an amendment to the motion that showed some common ground between Parliament's two largest parties—but no one was sure if there was enough common ground for the motion to pass. Meanwhile, the NDP, the Green Party, and the Bloc Québécois all called for an end to the mission either immediately or by the original February 2009 deadline.

What's Next?

The Manley Report and the subsequent debate put the war in Afghanistan back on the political front burner. Shortly after the release of the report, Harper

announced that the vote on the motion to extend the mission would be a confidence vote and that the defeat of the motion would trigger an election. Meanwhile, in late February, the Conservatives released a middle-of-the-road budget that left the opposition with little to complain about. It became clear that the budget would not bring down Harper's minority government.

However, continuing to bubble on the front burner rested the fate of the mission in the volatile province of Kandahar. With no troop commitments from NATO, and the future of Harper's Conservative government resting on the motion to extend the mission, Canadians faced the very real possibility of a spring election with the Afghan mission as the primary campaign issue.

Questions

1. What bold pronouncement did John Manley make at the news conference that corresponded with the release of his panel's report?

2. Identify Prime Minister Harper's strategy to get an extension to the Afghan mission.

3. How did NATO react to the Manley Report's troop commitment demand?

4. How did Canada's opposition parties respond to the report?

5. Outline your personal response to the major findings of the Manley Report.

THE MANLEY REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

Video Review

Further Research

To learn the current positions of Canada's major political parties on the changing situation in Afghanistan, visit their official Web sites: Conservative Party (www.conservative.ca), Liberal Party (www.liberal.ca), New Democratic Party (www.ndp.ca), Bloc Québécois (www.blocquebecois.org) and Green Party (www.greenparty.ca)

Watch the video and answer the following questions.

1. What critical decision did the government of Canada have to make regarding the war in Afghanistan early in 2008?

2. a) Who headed the panel looking into Canadian efforts in Afghanistan?

b) Why did the appointment of this man seem like a strange choice for Prime Minister Harper to make?

3. Identify one of the options given to the Manley panel regarding the future of the Afghan mission.

4. According to former deputy minister of National Defence Robert Fowler, what is the overarching issue the panel needs to address?

5. What is the core weakness in the NATO-ISAF effort in Afghanistan?

6. Why is the departure of Canada's troops considered unthinkable by some?

7. Identify one of the recommendations made by the Manley panel.

8. What condition did Canada place on its continued involvement in the Afghan mission?

9. Where do the NDP, Bloc Québécois, and Liberals stand on the Afghan mission?

10. What criticisms did the panel have for the government's handling of the war in Afghanistan?

11. What "bipartisan consensus" does Prime Minister Harper hope to achieve going into a parliamentary vote on the Afghan mission?

THE MANLEY REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

Timeline

September 11, 2001 Terrorists attack three targets in the U.S., including the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

September 12, 2001 NATO invokes treaty provisions that confirm that the attack against the U.S. was an attack against all of NATO's partners. Meanwhile, the UN affirms the U.S. right to self-defence and the need to bring the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks to justice.

October 7, 2001 The U.S. and Britain begin air strikes in the lead-up to a full-scale invasion of Afghanistan. Canada contributes with warships and aircraft deployed to the Persian Gulf as part of Operation Apollo.

December 5, 2001 The Bonn Agreement establishes an interim Afghan government in preparation for democratic elections once the country is stabilized. Hamid Karzai is later appointed interim head of the government of Afghanistan.

December 20, 2001 The UN Security Council gives NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) permission to begin operations in Afghanistan.

January 2002 After re-establishing diplomatic relations with Afghanistan, Canada pledges \$100-million to Afghan reconstruction. This amount rises to over \$1-billion over the next five years.

February - August 2002 850 Canadian troops are deployed to Kabul. Canadian Forces serve there until their redeployment to Kandahar in 2005.

October 7, 2004 Hamid Karzai wins the Afghan presidential election by a slim margin.

September 2005 Parliamentary and provincial elections take place in Afghanistan; the Canadian Strategic Advisory Team (SAT) is formed to advise the new government of Afghanistan. The Afghan National Assembly convenes for the first time in December.

January 31, 2006 The Afghanistan Compact is signed in London. International donors pledge over \$10-billion to aid the Afghan people between 2006 and 2011.

February 2006 Re-deployment to Kandahar is complete. Canada begins military operations in Afghanistan's most dangerous region.

May 17, 2006 Parliament approves a two-year extension to the Afghan mission, taking Canada's commitment to February 2009.

September 1-20, 2006 Canada leads an offensive against insurgents in the volatile Panjwahi and Zhari districts; Operation Medusa sees some of the heaviest direct fighting between Canadian troops and insurgents.

June 22, 2007 The Harper government announces that the Afghan mission will not be extended without the consent of Parliament.

October 12, 2007 Harper announces the formation of the Independent Panel on Canada's Future in Afghanistan; the blue-ribbon panel, led by John Manley, is directed to deliver their report in early 2008.

January 22, 2008 The final report of the Manley panel is released, and the debate regarding Canada's involvement in the war in Afghanistan shifts into high gear.

THE MANLEY REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

Key Recommendations

Note

When the panel refers to the Afghan National Security Forces, they mean the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police.

The Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan released its report in late January 2008. This is a summary of the key recommendations. Read the recommendations and complete the questions that follow.

Our panel's objective is to proffer our best advice to Parliament on the manner in which Canada can best contribute to stability in Afghanistan, and to arrange for a timely handover of lead responsibility for security and economic development to the Afghan authorities.

We believe that Canada's role in Afghanistan should give greater emphasis to diplomacy, reconstruction, and governance and that the military mission should shift increasingly towards the training of the Afghan National Security Forces.

These efforts should be led by the Prime Minister, supported by a special cabinet committee and by a single task force directing the activities of all departments and agencies. The objective is to ensure better balance, tighter co-ordination, and more systematic evaluation of Canada's contributions.

We recommend that:

1. Canada should assert a stronger and more disciplined diplomatic position regarding Afghanistan and the regional players. Specifically, Canada, in concert with key allies, should press for:

- Early appointment of a high-level civilian representative of the UN Secretary-General to ensure greater coherence in the civilian and military effort in Afghanistan;
- Early adoption by NATO of a comprehensive political-military plan to address security concerns and imbalances, especially the need for more troops to bolster security and

expedite training and equipment for the Afghan National Security Forces;

- Forceful representations with Afghanistan's neighbours, in particular with Pakistan, to reduce the risks posed to regional stability and security by recent developments in that country; and
- Concerted efforts by the Afghan government to improve governance by tackling corruption and ensuring basic services to the Afghan people, and pursuing some degree of political reconciliation in Afghanistan.

2. Canada should continue with its responsibility for security in Kandahar beyond February 2009, in a manner fully consistent with the UN mandate on Afghanistan, including its combat role, but with increasing emphasis on training the Afghan National Security Forces expeditiously to take lead responsibility for security in Kandahar and Afghanistan as a whole. As the Afghan National Security Forces gain capability, Canada's combat role should be significantly reduced.

- This commitment is contingent on the assignment of an additional battle group (of about 1 000 soldiers) to Kandahar by NATO and/or other allies before February 2009.
- To better ensure the safety and effectiveness of the Canadian contingent, the Government should also secure medium helicopter lift capacity and high-performance Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance before February 2009.

3. Canada's contribution to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan should be revamped, giving higher priority than at present to direct, bilateral project assistance that addresses the immediate, practical needs of the Afghan people, especially in Kandahar province, as well as longer-term capacity building.

4. The Government should systematically assess the effectiveness of Canadian contributions and the extent to which the benchmarks and timelines of the Afghanistan Compact

have been met. Future commitments should be based on those assessments.

The Government should provide the public with franker and more frequent reporting on events in Afghanistan, offering more assessments of Canada's role, and giving greater emphasis to the diplomatic and reconstruction efforts as well as those of the military.

Source: Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan – Final Report (January 2008), pp.37-38; www.independent-panel-independent.ca/main-eng.html.

Questions

1. What diplomatic efforts does the panel recommend that the government of Canada pursue with regard to the Afghan mission?

2. What military recommendations does the panel make?

3. Identify the conditions under which Canada should continue to pursue the mission in Afghanistan.

4. What role should the training of the Afghan National Security Forces and reconstruction play in Canada's future participation in the Afghan mission?

5. Rank order a point-form list of the key recommendations of the panel.

THE MANLEY REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

Reactions to the Report

Did you know . . .

The production of opium is booming in Afghanistan. In 2007, it is estimated that opium from Afghanistan had a street value of USD\$60-billion. This is yet another complicating factor in the conflict in this poor country.

NATO's Reaction

A few weeks after the release of the report, Defence Minister Peter MacKay attended a NATO meeting in Lithuania. At the meeting he made it clear that other NATO nations needed to step up or, as was made clear in the Manley Report, Canada would be pulling out. Some NATO partners pointed out that as the U.S. had agreed to send 3 000 marines to Afghanistan—with 2 000 of those soldiers assigned to the south—Canada's demands had already been met. MacKay responded by saying that 1 000 troops were still needed because the U.S. troops were slated for only a seven-month deployment. Some nations—Poland and France in particular—indicated that they might be able to help in some small capacity, but no firm commitments were in place by the time MacKay made his way back home. The next step will come in April when Prime Minister Harper meets with NATO heads of state in Bucharest, Romania, where he is expected to let the alliance know whether or not Canada intends to proceed with the mission. Canada's "send troops or else" ultimatum has left more than a few NATO partners extremely anxious about future prospects in Afghanistan.

The Canadian Political Reaction

The release of the Manley Report also gave Canada's main political parties a chance to restate their positions regarding the war.

- The Conservative Party – Manley's panel gave the Conservatives exactly what they were looking for, and Harper agreed to follow the panel's recommendations. He put forward a motion in the House of Commons, and debate on the motion began shortly thereafter.

- The Liberal Party – The Liberals praised the candour of the report but called for an end to the combat mission by February 2009 with a new focus on training the Afghan National Security Forces and reconstruction efforts in Kandahar. Liberal leader Stéphane Dion met with Harper and put forward an amendment to the original motion with some common ground found between the two leaders.
- The NDP – With 80 Canadians dead and \$3.1-billion spent on the mission, the NDP renewed their call for a complete withdrawal from Afghanistan.
- The Green Party – The Green Party advised the government to notify NATO that Canada is finished in Kandahar and move the mission back to Kabul to help bolster the nation's fledgling democratic institutions.
- The Bloc Québécois – Despite the conclusions of the Manley panel, the Bloc Québécois reiterated their point that Canada had done enough and should rotate out of Kandahar in February 2009.

Undeterred by the fragile status of his minority government, Harper announced debate on his motion to extend the mission in February with a vote on the motion to take place in March. The meeting between Liberal leader Stéphane Dion and Prime Minister Harper did show promising signs of compromise between the two leaders. However, things could change once the Afghan mission is put to a vote, with the Conservatives unwavering in their desire to extend the campaign and the Liberals calling for an end to active combat by early 2009. Which way the vote will go is still very much up in the air.

THE MANLEY REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

Troop Commitments

One of the most pressing concerns mentioned in the Manley Report is the number of troops committed to ISAF by

NATO nations. Review the following chart and complete the activity that follows.

Country	# of soldiers	Fatalities	Location of troops	Mandate
Canada	2 500	78	South – Kandahar province	Combat and reconstruction
Afghan National Army	28 600	n/a	All over the country	Combat
Afghan National Police	30 200	n/a	All over the country	Law enforcement
United States	15 038	479	Eastern provinces bordering on Pakistan	Combat and reconstruction
Britain	7 753	86	South – Helmand province	Combat and reconstruction
Germany	3 210	25	North	Reconstruction; barred from combat
Italy	2 880	11	West – Hirat province	Reconstruction; barred from combat
Netherlands	1 650	14	South	Combat and reconstruction
France	1 515	12	Kabul and surrounding area	Security; allowed to engage in combat if necessary
Turkey	1 219	0	Central	Security; works closely with France to maintain stability in Kabul
Poland	1 141	1	Southeast	Combat
Australia	900	4	Central	Security; reconstruction
Denmark	780	8	South – Helmand province	Combat
Spain	750	23	West	Reconstruction
Other nations	4 500		All over the country	Many of these troops are barred from combat

Source: NATO-ISAF - www.nato.int/isaf

Note: NATO-ISAF has roughly 43 250 troops, including the 15 000 U.S. troops listed above. The U.S. also has 13 000 troops involved in Operation Enduring Freedom deployed in Afghanistan and has pledged an additional 3 000 marines slated for a seven-month deployment beginning in the summer of 2008.

Questions

1. Why do you think so many NATO nations have barred their troops from combat? Could the government of Canada bar Canadian troops from combat in the volatile south? Explain your answer.
2. Identify the three nations that have taken on the heaviest burden in Afghanistan. Do you think these nations should be entitled to rotate out of the more dangerous areas while others would rotate into the combat regions? Why do you think this isn't happening?
3. Most NATO countries send troops on six-month missions to Afghanistan. The U.S. generally sends soldiers on missions lasting 15 months. Which do you think might be most effective? Why? Which might be most dangerous? Why?

THE MANLEY REPORT ON AFGHANISTAN

Activity: Why Should We Stay in Afghanistan?

Quote

"I believe in a strong international role for Canada. I think this world is getting more complicated, more difficult, more dangerous."
— John Manley
(*Toronto Star*, January 23, 2008)

Your Task

The Manley Report criticized the government of Canada—both the ruling Conservatives and their Liberal predecessors—for failing to communicate the reasons why Canadians are fighting in Afghanistan. In an effort to bring clarity to Canada's position, the panel came up with four reasons justifying Canada's involvement in the Afghan mission. Your task is to review the following excerpt from the Manley Report and complete the task that follows.

Step One: Reading

Read the following excerpt from the Manley Report. Highlight the four main reasons for Canada's involvement in Afghanistan. Be prepared to refer back to these reasons when completing Step Two.

For our part, panel members are persuaded by four strong reasons for Canada's involvement in Afghanistan:

First, Canada has sent soldiers, diplomats and aid workers to Afghanistan as part of an international response to the threat to peace and security inherent in Al Qaeda's terrorist attacks. The world had largely abandoned Afghanistan after the Soviet withdrawal in 1989; civil war and state failure followed. The haven that the Taliban gave to Al Qaeda before the 9/11 attacks showed how disorder and repressive extremism there could create a threat to the security of other countries—including Canada—far distant from Afghanistan's borders. A primary Canadian objective, while helping Afghans, has been to help ensure that Afghanistan itself does not again revert to the status of sanctuary and head office for global terrorism. Countries as fortunately endowed as Canada—and as interdependent with the rest of the world—owe obligations to the international community. Participating in the international intervention in Afghanistan, at the request of the Afghan government, has been one of those obligations. The consequences of international failure in Afghanistan—for Afghans and for the world—would be disastrous.

Second, Canadians are in Afghanistan in support of the United Nations, contributing to the UN's capacity to respond to threats to peace and security, and to foster better futures in the world's developing countries. This is not the same UN peacekeeping that Canadians have known and supported in the past; in Afghanistan there is not yet a peace to keep, no truce to supervise, or "green line" to watch. This is a peace-enforcement operation, as provided for under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. It is a collective use of force, under international law, to address a threat to international peace and security posed by continuing disorder in Afghanistan. It reflects as well the changing nature of UN-mandated peace missions, which have become more robust in the use of force to protect civilians since the harsh lessons learned in the murderous disasters of Bosnia and Rwanda. Similarly authorized enforcement missions have served in Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In fact, these are the kinds of force the UN might be called upon to apply more often in future, where the human rights and human security of ordinary people are threatened. When the UN and its members authorize such

a mission, Canadians have a choice: Canada can participate where Canadian capabilities allow, or we can leave the mission to others.

A third reason for Canada's engagement is that the military mission in Afghanistan is chiefly, though not exclusively, a NATO endeavour (26 of the 39 ISAF partners are NATO members). NATO is the UN's instrument for stabilizing a durable peace in Afghanistan, enabling that country's development and the improvement of its governance. Canada's political and security interests for almost 60 years have been advanced by Canadian membership in the NATO alliance, a history reaching from the early years of the Cold War to life-saving NATO interventions in the Balkans. More often than not, Canadian interests are well served by active membership in an organization of democracies that gives every member country a voice in protecting our shared security. Afghanistan represents a challenge to NATO's credibility; to meet that challenge, NATO partners will have to assign more forces to Afghanistan and execute a more effective counterinsurgency strategy. NATO's success in that conflict will serve Canada's own security interests.

There is a fourth and equally powerful reason for Canadian engagement: the promotion and protection of human security in fragile states. Results in Afghanistan can influence the willingness of Canadians, and of others, to act in future to protect the lives and rights of people who cannot count on the protection of their own government. Rwanda's genocide in 1994 proved what can happen when the world ignores impending catastrophe. Time and again, failed and fragile states—and governments that betray responsibilities to protect their own citizens—jeopardize international order and test the strength of our convictions. These are times for capable countries to take a stand. Far from breaching its responsibility to its citizens, the Afghan government has invited international help. An effective international response can serve Canadian interests and give practical force to our shared values. Reasserting Canada's international reputation for reliability in Afghanistan can enhance Canada's own influence in resolving crises in the future.

The panel finds these reasons all the more persuasive because they are commonly reiterated by Canadians with deep professional experience in Afghanistan. Canadian soldiers and civilians have been articulate about their mission, and confident that they are making serious contributions to the well-being of Afghans and to the security of Canadians.

These are inescapable considerations that belong in any true assessment of the Canadian engagement in Afghanistan. They have informed the panel's analysis of Canada's military and civilian activities in Afghanistan so far, and they have shaped the recommendations that flow from the facts we have found on the ground.

Source: Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan – Final Report (January 2008), pp.20-23; www.independent-panel-independant.ca/main-eng.html

Step 2: Summarize the document

1. In one or two sentences, summarize each of the four reasons for Canada's involvement in Afghanistan.
2. Rank the reasons in order of importance. Explain your ranking in a short paragraph (approximately 75 words).

RESTARTING THE CHALK RIVER REACTOR

Introduction

Focus

In November 2007 the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, citing safety reasons, ordered the shutdown of the NRU Reactor at Chalk River Laboratories. The reactor is North America's most important source of medical isotopes. In response, the government called a rare emergency debate of Parliament to force the restart of the reactor and resume the flow of isotopes. This *News in Review* story examines what has become known as the Chalk River Crisis. We also outline Canada's nuclear history and the importance of the Chalk River Laboratories to both nuclear medicine and CANDU reactor development.

Definition

Medical isotopes are mildly radioactive substances used to diagnose and treat many serious diseases.

It was a rare moment in Canadian Parliamentary history—all members coming together to unanimously pass emergency legislation. The crisis: the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC – www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng), an independent government regulator, had shut down the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor at Chalk River. Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL – www.aecl.ca), the Crown corporation responsible for the NRU reactor, had failed to complete safety measures that were required as part of its most recent relicensing.

The reactor is the only North American source of many of the most important isotopes used in nuclear medicine. Because of the closing, medical procedures across the continent were threatened with delays or cancellation.

Gary Lunn, the minister responsible for Chalk River, did not learn of the reactor shutdown until several days after it occurred. Lunn consulted AECL's engineers and other experts, and they insisted that the reactor was perfectly safe to restart. He joined with the minister of health to pressure the CNSC and its president, Linda Keen, to permit restarting the reactor without the safety work being complete. In a ministerial directive he informed the NSC that they must include the need for medical isotopes as part of their safety mandate.

Keen and the commission had little chance to respond. The government described the situation as critical. It insisted that the necessary isotopes were unavailable from any other source. On December 11 the government ordered an emergency debate in Parliament, and the bill overriding CNSC supervision was passed by unanimous vote on

December 12. The reactor was restarted on December 16, and isotope shipments resumed on December 18.

Fallout

The dispute between Lunn and Keen promises to continue for some time to come. Shortly after Christmas, Keen received a letter from the minister informing her that he was considering having her fired as president of the commission. He carried out his threat on January 15, 2008 (she is no longer president, but remains one of two full-time members of the commission).

Keen responded to the minister's letter and suggested that she would take legal action if he removed her as president. Keen has also carried out her threat. She has filed an application for a judicial review of the firing by the Federal Court, asking that she be reinstated.

Other investigations are also ongoing. The CNSC and AECL have announced that they will co-operate in a joint investigation of the reactor incident, going back to the relicensing and its conditions in 2006. The Commons natural resources committee is also holding hearings in an attempt to determine why the crisis developed and who allowed it to do so.

Sharing the Blame

While all the details have yet to emerge, it seems it took many people to turn this incident into a full-fledged crisis. These include:

- AECL, which failed to carry out the safety improvements that the CNSC ordered in 2005
- CNSC, and especially Linda Keen, who almost all experts believe overestimated the danger posed

Update: No Other Source of Isotopes?

Alan J. Kuperman, a senior policy analyst with the Nuclear Control Institute in Washington, D.C., cites a report from scientists at one of the world's largest isotope producers, located in Belgium (*The Globe and Mail*, March 1, 2008): "The report documents that European and South African reactors typically operate well below capacity, which is why they together produce less than 60 per cent of world demand, while Nordion produces almost as much in a single reactor. But at peak operation, the non-Canadian reactors are capable of producing a collective 160 per cent of world demand." Kuperman notes that MDS Nordion insists it tried and failed to get isotopes from Europe during the crisis. He also notes that during that period "some European facilities actually were sitting idle."

by restarting the reactor before the upgrade was completed

- The Prime Minister, who accused Keen of keeping the reactor down because of Liberal partisanship
- MDS Nordion, the private company that processes and distributes isotopes, which claimed that other companies, especially in Europe, could not pick up the slack (see Update sidebar)
- Natural Resources Canada (www.nrcan.gc.ca), which initially failed to see or ignored communications indicating that the reactor had been shut down
- The government, which accepted the MDS Nordion claim at face value and made it the basis for overriding the CNSC

A Cloudy Future

The dispute between the government and the NSC is especially significant for one of the key players. For AECL, the Crown corporation responsible for Chalk River, the crisis came at a difficult time. Isotopes are only a small

For Discussion

What do you think of when you hear the words "independent regulator"? From whom should the regulator be independent? To whom should an independent regulator ultimately answer? (You will have an opportunity to revisit this question after you watch the video; see Part II of the "Video Review," page 23)

part of what AECL does; most of their work revolves around the design and building of nuclear reactors, especially CANDU reactors. The crisis came on top of some other significant problems. The reactors being built to replace the 50-year-old NRU are 10 years behind schedule, with no anticipated start-up date. AECL has failed to sell a new CANDU reactor in over a decade. To date, only New Brunswick has indicated a real interest in the newest CANDU that AECL has under development. Rumours are circulating that the government would like to sell off all or part of the corporation.

There is hope, however. The new budget contains a one-time disbursement of \$300-million to AECL to use to get the replacement reactors running and complete the design of the new ARC-1000 CANDU. And Ontario, Canada's biggest investor in nuclear power, is in the process of choosing a supplier for two new reactors. AECL is doing its best to be the chosen one.

RESTARTING THE CHALK RIVER REACTOR

Video Review

Did you know . . .

At present there are 440 active nuclear reactors in the world. It is expected that 90 additional reactors will be in operation by 2016.

The Chalk River controversy is extremely complicated. More than one viewing of the video may be necessary before students grasp all sides of the story.

Part I

Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

1. How old is the NRU reactor at Chalk River? _____
2. What percentage of the world supply of medical isotopes is produced at Chalk River? _____%
3. Safety upgrades were ordered as part of the NRU reactor's most recent licence renewal. When was the licence renewed? _____
4. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission discovered that a specific safety measure had not been carried out. As a result, it refused to permit the restarting of the reactor after routine maintenance. What was that safety measure?

5. According to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's (AECL) Brian McGee, did the NSC know that the pumps had not been connected? _____
6. Briefly describe the position held by Linda Keen, head of the CNSC, on the restarting of the Chalk River reactor.

7. For how long was the reactor down before the government decided to act?

8. How many days did Parliament's emergency legislation give AECL to operate the reactor until the upgrade was completed? _____
9. What was the final vote in the Commons on restarting the reactor?

10. The Prime Minister accused Linda Keen of doing something shocking to Canadians. What did he accuse her of doing?

11. For what reason did Gary Lunn say that Linda Keen was fired?

12. Brian McGee, the Chief Nuclear Operator at Chalk River, says that ultimately one person had to bear responsibility for the isotope crisis. Who is that person? _____
13. What action did Mr. McGee take in February 2008?

14. How has Linda Keen responded to her firing?

Part II: For Discussion

A second viewing of the video is suggested before discussion takes place.

1. Several observers have argued that the isotope crisis happened because of long-standing tensions and disagreements between AECL and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. Does the video presentation support this observation in any way? What comments or actions might be cited in support of that argument?

2. Do you agree or disagree with the idea proposed by Leslie Mackinnon that the head of the CNSC is responsible solely for nuclear safety—not for the safety of patients in need of medical isotopes? Why?

3. Consider the following quote from public policy experts George Vegh and Jatin Nathwani (*The Globe and Mail*, January 30, 2008): “Regulatory agencies, independent or otherwise, do not operate in a vacuum, but in a real-life social context to meet the needs of Canadians.” What implications does such a principle have for agencies like the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission? Does it reinforce the government’s case for taking action in the Chalk River crisis?

4. How would you have handled the Chalk River Crisis? In your notebook explain your actions.

RESTARTING THE CHALK RIVER REACTOR

Canada and Nuclear Power

Further Research

One of the best sources of up-to-date information on Canada's importance as a nuclear player is a briefing paper by the Uranium Information Centre Ltd. of Australia. Titled "Canada's Uranium Production & Nuclear Power." It was published in February 2008 and is available at www.uic.com.au/nip03.htm.

Further Research

Useful material on the history and development of CANDU reactors is available from the CBC archives at http://archives.cbc.ca/IDD-1-75-104/science_technology/candu/.

Canada is considered a world leader in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Economic Impact

Canada is currently the world's largest producer of uranium. In 2004, Canada produced about 30 per cent of the total world uranium production, over 11 000 tonnes valued at about \$800-million.

Much of this uranium, along with many other nuclear products and services, is exported to other countries. According to the Australian Uranium Information Centre (UICA), in 2001 Canada exported nuclear goods and services worth \$1.2-billion. While \$500-million of this was uranium, another \$350-million came from manufactured products: reactor fuel, radioisotopes (mostly from Chalk River) and heavy water. In addition, whenever Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) sells a reactor abroad, billions more flow into the Canadian economy.

It is not only through exports that nuclear energy plays an important role in the Canadian economy. Since its founding as a Crown corporation in 1952, AECL has invested nearly \$6-billion in its nuclear program. AECL credits this investment with generating over \$160-billion in contributions to the gross domestic product (GDP). These contributions come in the form of power production, research and development (R and D), CANDU exports, uranium, medical isotopes, and professional services.

According to UICA: "A study by the Canadian Energy Research Institute found that the nuclear industry contributes about \$6-billion annually to Canada's GDP, while government R and D investment in it is about \$130 million."

Early Efforts

Canada's nuclear history dates back to 1942, with the founding of a Montreal laboratory with a mandate for designing and setting up a heavy-water nuclear reactor. Early successes (see "Chalk River," on page 26) led in 1952 to the creation of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) as a Crown corporation. Its mandate was to develop peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Together with Ontario Hydro and Canadian General Electric, AECL developed and built Canada's first nuclear power plant, at Rolphton, Ontario (near the AECL laboratories in Chalk River). The 20-megawatt Nuclear Power Demonstration (NPD) reactor began supplying electrical power in 1962 and ran successfully until 1987.

CANDU

The success of the NPD reactor encouraged further development and led to the family of CANDU reactors still being designed and marketed by AECL. The first of these was a 200-megawatt reactor at Point Douglas, near Kincardine, Ontario. It ran until 1984.

Point Douglas was supposed to have a second reactor, but its construction was cancelled when the Ontario government decided to build a multi-reactor facility at Pickering, near Toronto. Pickering A, consisting of four reactors, began operation in 1971. The four reactors of Pickering B came online in 1983. When fully operational, the station could produce a total of 4 120 megawatts.

Six of the eight Pickering reactors remain operational. Two of the Pickering A reactors have been refurbished and restarted; the refurbishment of the two others has been abandoned as uneconomical.

Definition

CANDU stands for CANada Deuterium Uranium. The Canadian design uses deuterium (heavy water) as a moderator to reduce the speed of the fast neutrons produced by uranium fuel, ensuring a controllable chain reaction. It is the use of heavy water that made the CANDU reactor design unique.

Further Research

A good source of information on the nuclear industry in Canada is "Canadian Nuclear FAQ" by Dr. Jeremy Whitlock, a reactor physicist with AECL, at www.nuclearfaq.ca/index.html#intro.

There are now 18 CANDU reactors operating in Canada, and 12 in other countries. Argentina and Pakistan each have one; China, India, and Romania operate two each; and South Korea has four. In Canada, New Brunswick and Quebec each operate one CANDU reactor; the remainder are in Ontario. India has built another 13 reactors following the CANDU design.

Nuclear power now provides about 16 per cent of the total electricity demands of Canadians. It is especially significant in Ontario, providing almost 50 per cent of that province's electric power.

CANDU 6 and ACR-1000

The most recent version of the CANDU reactor is the CANDU 6, the first of which went into operation in the early 1980s. Each CANDU 6 is capable of producing 700-megawatts of electricity; there are currently 11 in operation worldwide.

To Consider

1. Why is Canada considered to be a world leader in the nuclear energy industry?
2. Do you think Canada should continue to work toward leadership in the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy? Why? Why not?

Under development is the ACR-1000 (Advanced CANDU reactor). AECL hopes to sell and have the first units in operation by 2016. Each reactor will have a capability of 1 200-megawatts.

AECL hopes to market its first ACR-1000s to one of its existing Canadian customers. Ontario is expected to announce the purchase of at least one new reactor and to select the winning supplier by the end of 2008. AECL is competing with two large foreign companies for the contract.

The building of a new reactor at Point Lepreau in New Brunswick is expected to pioneer a new approach to nuclear-power-plant construction in Canada. AECL joined with a consortium of private-sector companies who will finance the construction of the reactor. The finished plant will be owned and operated by those private companies and will have long-term contracts with New Brunswick Power and other interested power companies in the U.S. northeast.

RESTARTING THE CHALK RIVER REACTOR

Chalk River

Further Research

A fine article on ZEEP—"ZEEP: The Little Reactor that Could"—is available from the Canadian Nuclear Society at www.cns-snc.ca/history/ZEEP/ZEEP_CNSBulletin_Fall1995.html.

Further Research

A 1956 CBC television film about the construction of the NRU is available at http://archives.cbc.ca/IDD-1-75-104/science_technology_candu/. Extensive information on the reactor and its work is available at a site designed by media and design students at Algonquin College's Ottawa campus, at www.nrureactor.ca/php/mainFlash.php.

Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) is Canada's premier research and development facility for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It is also the world's largest provider of radioactive isotopes for nuclear medicine. Chalk River is located about 180 kilometres northwest of Ottawa in the Upper Ottawa Valley.

Chalk River's genesis was the National Research Council's 1942 decision to establish a laboratory in Montreal to design a heavy-water nuclear reactor. The reactor was to be called the National Research Experimental (NRX) reactor, and was expected to be the most powerful research reactor in the world.

In 1944, Chalk River was chosen as the site where the first reactor would be built. But the NRX was not the first one to be built there. That honour fell to the Zero Energy Experimental Pile (ZEEP). In 1945 it achieved the first self-sustained nuclear reaction outside the U.S. It ran at Chalk River, off and on, for 25 years.

In 1946, all design and experimental work moved to Chalk River. One year later the NRX reactor started up, and it ran successfully—with one major glitch—through 1992. The design, using natural uranium and heavy water, was the basis of most future Canadian reactor design.

The glitch was indeed significant. In 1952 the NRX reactor suffered a partial meltdown. The core had to be removed, buried, and replaced. Most contamination was confined to the reactor building, but some did escape into the environment. It remains Canada's most serious nuclear accident.

AECL and NRU

Also in 1952, the government created a new Crown corporation called Atomic

Energy of Canada Limited (AECL). AECL, given a mandate to develop peaceful uses of atomic energy for Canada, inherited Chalk River as its principal research centre.

To assist in its research, AECL built the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor, the same reactor that was at the centre of the 2007 Chalk River Crisis. It began operation in 1957 and remains the centre for neutron beam research in Canada. Neutrons can probe any type of material, and researchers come from all over Canada to use the NRU to study everything from metals to glass, biomaterials to minerals.

When the NRU reactor was built, one of the goals was to have it make isotopes. NRU has much of the necessary infrastructure built in to extract molybdenum-99 and other isotopes. Worldwide, only a handful of reactors exist that can be used as a source of medical isotopes. All reactors produce them, but almost none are designed so that the isotopes can be easily extracted. The NRU reactor is the only reactor on the North American continent that can produce the most important isotopes in the quantities required by modern medicine for the diagnosis and treatment of illness.

The NRX computer at Chalk River also played an important role in the history of nuclear medicine. It produced the first cobalt-60 ever used in cancer therapy. The first cobalt-60 treatments were in London, Ontario.

CANDU and Electrical Production

Together with Ontario Hydro and Canadian General Electric, AECL developed and built Canada's first nuclear power plant at Rolphton, Ontario

(near the AECL laboratories in Chalk River). The 20-megawatt Nuclear Power Demonstration (NPD) reactor began supplying electrical power in 1962 and ran successfully until 1987.

The NRU reactor assisted tremendously in the design of the Rolphon reactor—and in the CANDU designs that followed. On the occasion of the reactor's 50th birthday in 2007, AECL noted: "As one of the world's most versatile research reactors, NRU also produced the fundamental knowledge required to develop, maintain, and evolve Canada's fleet of CANDU power stations. While NRU doesn't produce electricity, it is Canada's only major materials- and fuel-testing reactor used to support and advance the CANDU design.

"NRU contains testing equipment that allows scientists and engineers to replicate a power reactor's working conditions. This allows them to apply that knowledge to building safer and more efficient CANDU technology for use in Canada and abroad."

Chalk River's Future

Over the years, many changes have taken place at Chalk River and at AECL. In 1991 Nordion International, AECL's isotopes marketing and distribution division, was sold to MDS for \$165-million. Chalk River continued to

produce raw isotopes, but supplied them to a private company (MDS Nordion of Montreal) for refinement and sale. One year later the NRX reactor was decommissioned. Chalk River's cyclotron was shut down in 1997, effectively ending most pure research at the facility.

The NRU reactor is now well past its planned date for decommissioning. It was expected to have been replaced by two new reactors, Maple 1 and Maple 2. Both are specifically designed to produce radioactive isotopes. In 1996, MDS Nordion (www.mds.nordion.com) agreed to finance their construction at a cost of \$140-million. Their construction is now 10 years behind schedule, and safety is the main issue.

The reactors were designed so that the nuclear reaction in their cores would decrease as they produced more power. Instead, tests have shown that the reverse is taking place—the more power produced, the greater the nuclear reaction. All the safety planning around the reactor that has been done relied on the expectation that a decrease would take place. As a result, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has ordered AECL to fix the problem before it brings the reactors online. To date they have been unable to do so. Some observers believe the problem will never be solved and that the reactors may never operate.

For Discussion

Doctors and scientists in the United States have expressed considerable concern that there is no domestic source of medical isotopes, and that the U.S. is almost completely dependent on one Canadian reactor. They are pressuring the U.S. government to build a reactor to supply the U.S. market. How would building such a reactor be likely to affect the Chalk River Laboratories? Would you support or reject the building of a special U.S. reactor to provide medical isotopes? Explain.

RESTARTING THE CHALK RIVER REACTOR

Medical Isotopes

Further Research

Further information on radioactive isotopes and their medical uses is available from the CBC at www.cbc.ca/news/background/health/isotopes.html; from MDS Nordion at www.mdsnordion.com; from the Australian Uranium Information Centre Ltd. ("Radioisotopes in Medicine") at www.uic.com.au/nip26.htm; and from Atomic Energy Canada Limited at www.aec.ca/Science/CRL/NRU/Isotopes.htm.

Here are some basic facts about medical isotopes, their production and their uses.

What Medical Isotopes Are

- Medical isotopes are mildly radioactive elements that are introduced into the human body to help determine whether one or more parts of the body are functioning properly.
- There are two types of manufactured isotopes used for medical purposes: radioactive (such as molybdenum-99) and stable, or nonradioactive (such as carbon-13).
- Medical isotopes are created by nuclear fission. In a nuclear reactor, a uranium atom is bombarded with neutrons, splitting it. Medical isotopes are byproducts of this fission. In the Chalk River reactor, for example, one of the byproducts of fission is molybdenum-99, a radioactive variety of the element molybdenum.
- There are about 200 radioisotopes used on a regular basis, and almost all of them must be artificially produced.
- Radioactive products used in medicine are properly referred to as radiopharmaceuticals.

How Medical Isotopes Work

- Depending on the drug with which it is mixed, an isotope will localize in a specific organ or diseased area.
- When isotopes are introduced to a specific area or organ, that part of the body gives off gamma rays. Specialized cameras read these gamma rays and construct a picture telling doctors how well the organ is functioning.
- Most tests with medical isotopes are for elective surgeries, but some emergency surgeries and many serious cancer

surgeries do require the use of medical isotopes.

- Radioisotopes are not only used in diagnostics. They are also used in medical treatments. Targeted radiation can destroy cancer cells while leaving healthy areas of the body untouched. As long ago as 1951, doctors and researchers in Ontario and Saskatchewan pioneered the use of Cobalt-60 radiation therapy against cancer.

Why Isotopes Are Important

- In Canada, between 1.2 million and 1.5 million nuclear scans are done every year.
- One out of three people admitted to hospital in the U.S. receives either a test or a treatment that depends on a radioisotope.
- Between 80 and 90 per cent of all drugs that receive U.S. Federal Drug Administration approval require the use of radioisotopes during their research and development.

Why Chalk River Laboratories Is Important

- Chalk River fulfills two-thirds of world demand for medical isotopes for diagnostic purposes.
- Chalk River produces enough medical isotopes to treat 76 000 people per day, or 20 million every year.
- The most important medical isotope produced at Chalk River is molybdenum-99, often described as the cornerstone of nuclear medicine.
- Since 1991, one reactor at Chalk River has been the sole North American source of molybdenum-99.

Why Molybdenum-99 Is Important

- About 90 per cent of diagnostic procedures in nuclear medicine performed in Canada require molybdenum-99.
 - The half life of molybdenum-99 is 66 hours, and it cannot be stored.
 - Molybdenum-99 is purified for medical use by a private company, MDS Nordion. At its plant near Ottawa, MDS Nordion packages the isotope in containers called generators. The company distributes these to hospitals and diagnostic centres throughout North America and around the world.
 - Molybdenum-99 decays naturally into technetium-99m. As the molybdenum decays in the generator, it produces the technetium-99m that is critical for nuclear imaging.
- Combined with other drugs, technetium-99m is used in diagnostic imaging. Among other uses, it helps track down bone cancers, lung embolisms, and heart problems. It is also used to confirm kidney function after transplants.
 - Medical professionals and scientists often refer to the generators as “technetium cows,” and the process of obtaining the finished product as “milking the cow.” A small vial of saline solution is passed through the generator, and the radioactive liquid comes out the other side. The radioactive liquid is injected into the patient.

RESTARTING THE CHALK RIVER REACTOR

Activity: Fired

The most controversial outcome of what the media has called the Chalk River Crisis was the firing of Linda Keen, the president of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). In this exercise, you are asked to indicate whether or not you think the firing of Linda Keen was justified.

The NSC describes its role on its Web site as follows (www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/): “The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is an independent quasi-judicial agency that reports to Parliament through the Minister of Natural Resources. The CNSC regulates the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect health, safety, security, and the environment, and to respect Canada’s international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.” In many ways, this description is at the heart of the dispute between the government and Linda Keen.

The Nuclear Safety Commission Position

The NRU reactor at Chalk River was shut down because of safety concerns. In November 2007 the commission learned that earthquake-resistant DC motor starters had not been installed on two of the reactor’s pumps. According to the commission, these were a requirement of the relicensing of the reactor in 2006, and the commission had been led to believe they had been installed. As a result, the reactor—already shut down for routine maintenance—was ordered to remain shut down until the starters were installed.

Linda Keen and the CNSC argue that, in taking this position, they were clearly doing their job. Keen strongly believes that ensuring the supply of medical isotopes was not part of the

commission’s mandate. She also argues that the danger to the public from a nuclear accident was very real. Keen later told a Parliamentary committee that the risk of a nuclear accident was increased 1 000 times by the failure to have at least one of the heavy-water pumps linked to the emergency power supply. (It should be noted that many nuclear experts have disputed this claim.)

The Government Position

Once it realized that the NRU reactor was down and that a continued shut-down would result in medical isotopes being in short supply, the government reacted. Two prominent cabinet ministers—Garry Lunn (Natural Resources) and Tony Clement (Health)—requested that the CNSC allow Atomic Energy Canada Limited (AECL) to resume the Chalk River reactor operations with only one pump connected. Then, on December 11, the government directed the commission to include the need for medical isotopes as part of its safety mandate.

Almost before the commission could react, the government introduced an emergency bill in Parliament that stripped the CNSC of its authority over the safety upgrades for a period of 120 days, thus permitting the restart of the reactor. The government argued, with the assistance of several AECL scientists, that the reactor was perfectly safe without the upgrade, which some described as a backup to a backup. The bill passed unanimously, and isotope shipments resumed on December 18.

The Dispute Gets Personal

Politics had its role to play in the Keen affair. The Prime Minister fired the first shot by accusing Keen of stopping the production of isotopes to help the

Further Research

The Lunn letter and Keen's response are available online at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/newsroom/issues/corr_page.cfm.

Liberals: "Since when does the Liberal Party have a right, from the grave through one of its previous appointees, to block the production of necessary medical products in the country?" (*The Globe and Mail*, December 19, 2007).

But the official rebuke came to Keen in a letter from the Minister of Natural Resources, Garry Lunn, at the end of December. In it the minister listed a number of reasons why he was questioning the judgment of the commission and its chair, and ended with a direct threat to fire her: "You should be aware that I am considering making a recommendation to the Governor in Council that your designation as President of the Commission be terminated while maintaining your status as a full-time member of the commission." He then invited her to reply indicating why he should not make such a recommendation.

Keen responded with an eight-page letter, accompanied by a 27-page document outlining the reasons how and why the CNSC took the action it did during the Chalk River crisis. Much of her presentation was devoted to making the case for the independence of the CNSC as a regulatory agency: "Maintaining an arm's length

relationship to Ministers is particularly important for those organizations whose mandate is to make decisions that determine or regulate the privileges, rights, or benefits of Canadians."

Keen's response was to no avail. She was fired at 10:00 p.m. on January 15, 2008—the night before she was to appear before the Commons committee investigating the Chalk River crisis. She has since filed a motion with the Federal Court, asking it to rule that she was unlawfully removed as president. The government has refused to comment further on the case.

The Big Issue

Linda Keen's firing has once again raised a major question for Canadian governments: How independent is an independent regulatory agency? Keen's argument—that regulatory agencies must be independent of government in order to do their job—is one answer to that question. But there are other answers, including that of George Vegh and Jatin Nathwani (*The Globe and Mail*, January 30, 2008): "Regulatory agencies, independent or otherwise, do not operate in a vacuum, but in a real-life social context to meet the needs of Canadians."

Analysis and Discussion

Should Linda Keen have been fired? Review as much of the evidence about this complex issue as you can. Try to be fair and balanced in your assessment. Before writing out your analysis as to whether the firing of Linda Keen was justified, share your views with classmates in a general discussion.

RESTARTING THE CHALK RIVER REACTOR

Activity: Should Canada Go Nuclear?

It has been a long time since a nuclear reactor has been built in Canada. The last time a reactor went into service was at Darlington, Ontario, in 1993. Accidents—especially the one in Chernobyl in Ukraine—made the technology look risky. Refurbishing older reactors is expensive and seems to take far longer than estimates say it should. What to do with spent fuel remains an unsolved problem.

However, thanks to concerns about global warming and shortages in fossil fuel supplies, the nuclear industry may well be on the rebound. Private companies in Alberta and New Brunswick, along with the Ontario government, have expressed a desire to build new reactors to meet increased demands for electricity while minimizing environmental impact.

Should Canada embrace nuclear power, or does it create as many—or more—problems than it solves? This question is the subject of the debate in which you will be a participant.

The Question: Be it resolved that Canada should build more nuclear reactors to produce electric power for its citizens.

Each side should have two team members. Affirmative will speak first, followed by the negative. The initial speech for each team will be up to three minutes in length. Each team will also be permitted a one-minute rebuttal.

Here are some recommended sources of information:

For the affirmative:

Canadian Nuclear Association (www.cna.ca/english/index.asp)

"Canada's Nuclear Energy" (cna.ca/english/Nuclear_Facts/Nuclear_Energy_Booklet-EN/2007/CNA-07NucFctsBklt_EN.pdf)

Executive Intelligence Review (www.larouchepub.com/lym/2007/3423candu_rail.html)

CANDU (www.canducanada.ca/eng/index.html)

IEEE (www.ewh.ieee.org/reg7/millennium/candu/candu_achievement.html)

For the negative:

Sierra Club of Canada (www.sierraclub.ca/national/programs/atmosphere-energy/nuclear-free/index.shtml)

Pembina Institute (pubs.pembina.org/reports/ClearingThAir_Summary_final.pdf)

Social Alternatives (www.uow.edu.au/arts/sts/bmartin/pubs/07sa.html)

General

World Nuclear Association (www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf49.html)

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/)

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Introduction

Focus

Americans are seeing one of the most exciting and hard-fought races for the White House in decades. While the Republican campaign appears to be over, the Democratic race is still a cliff-hanger. In this *News in Review* story, we explain the process of becoming U.S. president and note the major political leaders involved in the chase.

On November 4, 2008, Americans elect a new president to succeed incumbent George W. Bush, who will be stepping down after two tumultuous terms in office. But the election campaigns for the presidential nominations of both major U.S. political parties—Republican and Democratic—have been underway for some time. They have captured the interest and enthusiasm of millions of Americans far more than similar electoral battles have done in the past. The field of prospective candidates seeking their party's nomination at the national conventions to be held this summer has already narrowed considerably following the primaries and caucuses held in a number of states in the first two months of 2008. By early March, Arizona Senator John McCain had locked up the Republican nomination. His last main remaining rival had been former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee.

The little-known Huckabee had surprised many with his strong showing in early January in Iowa, the first state to vote in a series of public meetings to elect convention delegates known as caucuses. He had continued to perform well in southern and Midwestern states where his socially conservative positions on issues such as abortion, school prayer, and gay marriages resonated with voters there. But as other prospective Republican candidates, including former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney dropped out of the race, throwing their support behind McCain, this long-time senator and Vietnam War hero built up an insurmountable lead among committed delegates to the Republican national convention.

McCain went on to win key primaries in important states such as New York and California, where his moderate stance on the main issues appealed to many Republicans tired of the hard-line conservatism of the Bush era. But the “religious right” of social conservatives, an important voting bloc that was instrumental in Bush's back-to-back election victories and essential for the Republicans' chances of holding on to the presidency in 2008, continues to regard McCain with suspicion. As a result, he will face a difficult challenge in securing its much-needed support in the months ahead if he is to succeed in retaining the presidency for his party.

On the Democratic side, the race for the nomination was being hotly contested by the last two candidates still in the field: New York Senator and former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and freshman Illinois Senator Barack Obama. Whoever finally secures the party's endorsement will make history as the first woman or African-American to run for president as the candidate of a major American political party. The other main contestant, former North Carolina senator and 2004 vice-presidential candidate John Edwards, withdrew from the race in mid-February. However, by the end of the month he had not yet thrown his support behind either of his two remaining rivals. For the Democrats, the opportunity of nominating either a woman or an African-American as their party's presidential candidate is an exciting prospect, and they are immensely proud of both contenders. The party believes it has an excellent chance to recapture the White House after eight years of Republican rule under an increasingly

Update

On March 4, important primaries in Texas, Ohio, Vermont, and Rhode Island took place. The results appear to have sealed the nomination of John McCain as Republican candidate for president. Among Democrats, the close results suggested that the long, hard-fought battle between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama would continue for many weeks to come.

unpopular George W. Bush. This is because many Americans are opposed to the ongoing, costly war in Iraq that Bush began in 2003. They also hold him responsible for the growing economic problems facing the country, including rising unemployment, inflation, the lack of affordable health care, and a rash of mortgage foreclosures in the U.S.

The hotly contested race between Clinton and Obama, which at the end of February remained too close to call, was something of a surprise to many political pundits. Before the first states began voting in primaries and caucuses, most observers believed that Hillary Clinton had all but sewn up the nomination, since she enjoyed a wide lead in opinion polls, a famous name, and financial resources that dwarfed those of her opponents. For his part, Obama was a little-known senator with scant legislative experience and a slight national profile. But Obama's upset win in Iowa, which led to a string of other primary and caucus victories in many states across the country, caught the Clinton camp by surprise and put the once-confident New York senator in the unlikely position of the underdog.

On "Super Tuesday," February 4, 2008, where voters in almost half the states in the U.S. cast their ballots in a series of primaries and caucuses, the two candidates emerged neck and neck. Even though Clinton won big prizes like her home state of New York and California, which elect a large number of delegates, Obama's strong showing elsewhere put him in a dead heat with her. And in the primaries that followed Super Tuesday, he rang up an impressive total of 11 straight victories, shutting out his opponent. The soaring eloquence of Obama's speeches, his calls for change in the direction of American policies both at home and abroad, and his youth, energy, and obvious appeal to black and young voters, appeared to capture the imagination of many Americans from diverse backgrounds. While Clinton remained widely respected within the party establishment, and her policy positions on key issues differed marginally, if at all, from Obama's, the easy road to the Democratic nomination that many had predicted for her at the outset of the campaign was becoming an increasingly arduous trek, with the ultimate result very much in doubt.

To Consider

1. Why is the current U.S. presidential election campaign more interesting than previous contests?
2. Who are the main candidates still in the race for the Republican and Democratic parties? Which candidates have withdrawn?
3. What problem does John McCain face in his efforts to unite the Republicans behind his presidential bid?
4. Why has the race for the Democratic nomination been such a surprise?
5. Why will the Democrats' choice of a presidential nominee be historic no matter which of the two remaining candidates wins?
6. Who do you think will win the presidency later in the year? Why?
7. Who would you prefer to win the presidency? Why?

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Video Review

Did you know . . .

High-profile stars such as Scarlett Johansson, Herbie Hancock, will.i.am of the Black-Eyed Peas, John Legend, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar have appeared in a YouTube video supporting the Obama campaign.

Quote

"You voted not just to make history, but to remake America."— Hillary Clinton (*Toronto Star*, February 6, 2008)

Watch the video and answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. a) What is a primary? _____
b) What is a caucus? _____
c) What role do these processes play in the election of a U.S. president?

2. Why will the Democrats make history no matter which of the two candidates running for the nomination wins?

3. Why were the results of the Iowa caucuses such a surprise for both parties?

4. Why does John McCain attract both positive and negative responses from members of his Republican party?

5. What messages did the three main candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination present to the voters of Iowa in a bid to attract their support?

6. What moment of emotion helped Hillary Clinton temporarily regain the momentum she needed to win the New Hampshire primary over Barack Obama?

7. What candidates on the Republican side had withdrawn from the race by the end of February 2008?

8. What major endorsement did Obama gain from a prominent Democrat? Why was this so significant?

Quote

"Our time has come. Our movement is real, and change is coming to America." — Barack Obama (*Toronto Star*, February 6, 2008)

9. What role is the Internet, and particularly sites such as YouTube, playing in this U.S. election campaign? Why is it so appealing to younger voters?

10. What was "Super Tuesday" and why was it so important for both parties? What were the results of these elections for the Democrats and Republicans?

11. Which candidates appeared to have the most momentum to win their parties' nominations at this time?

For Discussion

Form groups with your classmates to discuss the following questions arising from the video. Once you have completed your discussion, report back to the rest of the class with your group's ideas about the question.

1. From the information in the video, what do you think are the main differences between the way elections are conducted in the United States and Canada?
2. What role does religion play in American politics and elections?
3. To what groups of American voters do the main candidates for both political parties appeal, and why?
4. How did the results of the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary influence the race to the White House?
5. Why is the Internet becoming such an important part of the political process in this year's U.S. presidential election?
6. For what different reasons are the Republicans and Democrats finding it difficult to choose a presidential nominee, according to David Yepsen of *The Des Moines Register*?
7. Who do you think will win the presidential nomination for the Democrats and the Republicans in 2008 and why?
8. Which candidate do you think would be best for Canada's interests? Why?

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Electing a President

Did you know . . .

Both Obama and Clinton had raised well over USD\$100-million by 2007 in their race to the White House. Hundreds of millions more will be spent in the general election to come later in the year. In the Republican race, candidate Mitt Romney spent \$35-million of his own money in a losing race.

The process of electing a U.S. president is long, expensive, and complicated, especially compared to the way Canadians elect their federal and provincial governments. Election campaigns in Canada normally take just over a month; the 2008 American presidential race began in earnest almost two years before the voters finally mark their ballots for their next president, on November 4, 2008. The road to the White House is a bumpy, exhausting, and costly one. Many of the candidates for both major parties—the Democrats and the Republicans—who announced their intention of running to succeed President George W. Bush had already withdrawn from the race by early 2008 because of limited voter support and insufficient financial backing. In order to mount an effective campaign for the presidential nomination of one of the two main U.S. political parties, one must be able to raise many millions of dollars, mainly to fund expensive television advertisements and public appearances across the country.

Americans elect a president every four years, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Along with the presidency, they also elect one-third of the members of the 100-seat Senate, and all 435 members of the House of Representatives. Under the Constitution, U.S. presidents are entitled to serve two four-year terms in office. For this reason, George W. Bush, who was first elected in 2000 and re-elected in 2004, cannot stand again. This means that both major political parties must choose a candidate they believe has the best chance of winning the presidency in November. For the Republicans, the goal is to retain control of the White House in the post-Bush era; for the Democrats, the

challenge is to nominate someone who can end the eight years of right-wing Republican rule.

Both parties hold national conventions a few months before the election when their candidates for president are officially nominated, along with their respective running-mates for vice-president. The Democrats will hold their convention in Denver, Colorado, at the end of August, while the Republicans will meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in early September. In most cases these nominating conventions are nothing more than a formality, since by that time the winning candidates usually have amassed enough delegates committed to supporting them during the primaries to ensure their nomination. However, this may not be the case for the Democrats in 2008 if neither of the main candidates—Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton—is able to secure enough committed delegates prior to the convention once the primary season ends in late spring.

Over the first half of 2008, Americans of both parties have the chance to vote for the candidate of their choice for the nomination through a complicated process involving state caucuses and primary elections. The purpose of these votes is to indicate which candidates have the most popular support and, more importantly, to determine which of them will win the most convention delegates from that state. Since the political parties set the rules for the operation of state caucuses and primaries, the process can vary from state to state and also depends on whether it is a Democratic or Republican race. One major difference is the fact that most of the Republican primaries are winner-take-all, meaning that whichever candidate

Definition

A *primary* is an election where registered voters cast their ballots, while a *caucus* is a meeting or series of meetings where party members discuss and then vote for their candidates.

wins the most votes in that state also wins all the delegates. On the other hand, the Democrats follow a system of proportional representation, under which the number of delegates each candidate wins is in proportion to the percentage of the vote he or she won in that state.

By the end of February 2008, primaries and caucuses had been held in most states. On the Republican side it appeared that Arizona Senator John McCain was well on his way to securing his party's presidential nomination. To win, he needed 1191 delegate votes, and he had already gained 1033, compared with his nearest rival, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee's 247. For most observers it appeared almost certain that McCain would be the party's nominee. However, for the Democrats things were far less clear. To secure his or her party's nomination, the successful candidate had to win 2 025 delegates, and the two main candidates, Illinois Senator Barack Obama and New York Senator Hillary Clinton, were both far from achieving that figure. The race was very close, with Obama holding 1 369 delegates to Clinton's 1 267. What complicates the Democratic race even further is the fact that along with delegates elected at the state level through the process of primaries and caucuses, there are also over 800 "superdelegates." They are chosen by the national party. They are generally elected legislators and leaders of the party. They do not have to declare their support for either candidate until the convention is held.

After the conventions have met and the parties have nominated their respective presidential and vice-presidential candidates, the last and most important lap of the marathon race for the White House really begins. From September to the general election in early November, the nominees criss-cross the country,

focusing their efforts and spending on a number of populous "battleground" states that hold the key to victory. This is because Americans do not actually elect their president by popular vote, but through a complicated institution called the Electoral College. Under the Constitution, each state is granted a number of presidential electors equalling its total number of senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress.

While all states, from the most to the least populous, have two senators, large states like New York, California, Florida, and Texas have many more Representatives than smaller ones such as Vermont or Wyoming. In addition, the federal District of Columbia, which elects no senators or representatives, has three presidential electors. There are 100 senators and 435 members of the House of Representatives that, when combined with the D.C. electors, result in a total of 538 members of the Electoral College. To secure the presidency, the winning candidate must secure a majority vote in the Electoral College, or 270 electoral votes.

Unlike the Democratic primaries, the presidential election in all states except Maine and Colorado is a winner-take-all affair, meaning that the candidate who carries the state wins all of its electoral votes. Thus it is mathematically possible for a candidate to win the presidency by carrying only 11 of the most populous states, even if he or she were to lose all the other states and win fewer votes overall than his or her main rival. While such a scenario is highly unlikely, it has happened in the past that the decision of the presidential electors did not reflect the will of the majority of American voters. For example, in 2000 George W. Bush actually won many fewer votes nation-wide than his opponent, Vice-President Al Gore. However, he was elected anyway because he carried

enough electoral votes to secure the presidency as a result of an extremely narrow and disputed victory in the state of Florida that took months to resolve after the election. While some Americans believe the Electoral College is an undemocratic institution that should be abolished, such a step would require an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, a measure that would have to obtain the consent of two-thirds of the states and equivalent majorities in both houses of Congress. This is highly unlikely to occur.

Whoever wins a majority in the Electoral College, whose members cast their deciding ballots for the next

president one month after the general election, will be officially sworn in as the 44th U.S. president at the gala inaugural ceremony held in Washington, D.C., in January 2009. At that time the long campaign road to the White House will be finally over and the winner can assume the world's most important and powerful political position. But within two years of the next president's first term in office, potential candidates for the party that does not control the White House will be organizing their own campaigns to replace him or her and another long and costly battle for the White House will begin again.

Analysis

1. What are some major differences between the way Americans and Canadians elect their political leaders?
2. What important role does the U.S. Constitution play in setting the rules for presidential elections?
3. Why are state primaries and caucuses such an important part of the presidential election campaign, even before the parties have nominated their candidates?
4. Why might the Democratic national convention in August 2008 be more important than most of these events?
5. What is the Electoral College, and what important role does it play in the selection of a U.S. president?
6. Do you think the United States should abolish the Electoral College and instead choose its president by direct popular vote? Why/why not?

Source: CBC News In Depth, "The long road to the White House," www.cbc.ca/news/background/usvotes/process.html; "Q&A: US election delegates," <http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk>; CNN election coverage www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Profiles of the Major Candidates

Further Research

To learn more about the major candidates, consider a visit to their official Web sites: Barack Obama (www.barackobama.com), Hillary Clinton (www.hillaryclinton.com), John McCain (www.johnmccain.com), and Mike Huckabee (www.mikehuckabee.com).

Did you know . . .

Michelle Obama was a senior lawyer assigned to mentor and tutor her future husband.

Barack Obama

“This isn’t just about the past, it’s about the future. I don’t talk about my opposition to the war in Iraq to say ‘I told you so.’” — Barack Obama

Illinois Senator Barack Obama has captured the imagination and enthusiasm of millions of Americans who normally do not pay much attention to politics. This is largely due to his magnetic, charismatic public image, his impressive oratorical abilities, his youth, and the fact that he has been able to tap into a strong desire for change in the direction of America’s politics and channel it in his favour. Most Americans had their first taste of the Obama magic during the 2004 Democratic National Convention, where he delivered a stirring keynote address to the party faithful and was catapulted onto the national political stage. Prior to that, he was practically unknown outside his home state of Illinois, where he was serving as a state senator representing the Chicago area. But within months of his convention debut, Obama would go on to win election to the U.S. Senate, setting the stage for his presidential bid, which he announced in early 2007 after having gained only two years of political experience in Washington.

Obama’s background is quite cosmopolitan and differs markedly from his political rivals in both parties. He was born in Hawaii on August 4, 1961, to a black Kenyan father and a white Kansas-born mother. When Obama was very young, his father, after whom he had been named, returned to Kenya, leaving him and his mother behind. Shortly after, his mother, Ann, remarried an Indonesian businessman, and the family settled in Jakarta, where Obama attended

school. Even though his stepfather was a Muslim, Barack’s education was entirely secular, and he was not raised in the Islamic faith, although his middle name, Hussein, is a common Muslim name.

As a teenager, Obama returned to Hawaii to attend college and live with his grandparents. While studying, he became involved in some of the main political issues of the 1970s and 80s, including the worldwide campaign to end the racist apartheid system in South Africa. Obama’s political awakening led him to studies in political science at New York’s Columbia University, followed by three years as a community activist in the disadvantaged and mainly black communities of Chicago’s south side. In 1988 he returned to school, obtaining a law degree from Harvard, where he became the first African-American president of the prestigious Harvard Law Review. After graduating, he returned to Chicago to practise civil-rights law, representing victims of discrimination in city housing and employment. There he met his future wife, Michelle Robinson, a fellow lawyer. Barack and Michelle married in 1992, and the Obamas now have two young daughters, Natasha and Malia. Michelle Obama has energetically campaigned with her husband during his presidential nomination bid and is extremely popular with African-American women.

Obama is the author of two best-selling books, *Dreams from My Father*, a memoir of his separation and eventual reconciliation with his father, and *The Audacity of Hope*, which states his political beliefs. As the first African-American to become a serious presidential contender, Obama has had to deal with the contentious issue of race in U.S. politics. The great civil-rights leader

Did you know . . .
On Super Tuesday over 14 million Democrats cast their ballots and, in the end, only 53 000 votes separated Obama and Clinton in the states involved in the balloting.

Martin Luther King Jr. is one of his role models, and his speeches appear to have been influenced by King's inspiring flights of oratory. At the same time, he has been careful to distance himself from other African-American political leaders, such as Rev. Jesse Jackson, whose abortive bids for the Democratic presidential nomination in the 1980s appeared to divide Americans along racial lines. Instead, Obama has called for an inclusive, "colour-blind" U.S., where the categories of black and white would not continue to pit people against each other.

Obama's presidential bid was not given much chance of success when it began, but in the first months of 2008 he confounded the pundits, first by winning the Iowa caucuses, and then by rebounding from a narrow loss to Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire. Since the showdown of "Super Tuesday," where he held the New York senator to a draw, he has scored an impressive series of primary victories in a number of states and gained support from an ever-widening cross-section of U.S. voters. Obama's campaign is a media phenomenon that has attracted young first-time voters and previously disaffected African-Americans who had all but given up on politics.

As the last primaries appeared on the horizon, and he was moving steadily ahead of Hillary Clinton in the total delegate count, Obama also was gaining more support from voting blocs that had previously leaned toward Clinton, including Hispanics, blue-collar workers and women. And as his campaign gained momentum, he was able to amass a formidable financial war chest that could compete with Clinton's legendary fund-raising abilities. This would prove crucial in the states still to vote, including Ohio, Texas, and Pennsylvania, where a flood of television ads promoting his candidacy and his

charisma were broadcast to sway undecided voters there. Meanwhile, the pool of superdelegates, party insiders who were mainly leaning toward Clinton, now appeared to be splitting more evenly between the two candidates.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

"It's easy to give a speech about restoring the middle class but it is hard to actually do it. We've been there before with a president who leaves the economic cupboard empty on Election Day." — Hillary Rodham Clinton

Most American political observers predicted that Hillary Rodham Clinton would be a shoo-in for her party's presidential nomination when the race among the Democratic candidates began. As a former first lady during the two terms of her husband, former president Bill Clinton, and a New York senator since 2000, Hillary Clinton had earned for herself a strong record of political experience and achievements. She enjoys a high profile both at home and abroad for her tireless efforts promoting women's rights, health care, and job creation, and as a senator has been instrumental in securing the passage of key legislative initiatives. As a result of her impressive credentials, she has promoted herself to the voters as the candidate of proven experience, as opposed to her main opponent, Barack Obama, who has only sat in the U.S. Senate for two years and has few legislative accomplishments to his credit. But Clinton's early lead began to vanish after the first caucuses and primaries were held, and by the end of February 2008 she found herself in a closely contested race with Obama for a nomination many once believed was hers for the taking. Clinton is a poised and confident woman who shines in debates, where her mastery of detail and her ability to cut to the crux of any

issue impresses many. But her somewhat cool, detached public persona does not always ingratiate herself to voters, and it was only after a moment captured on television, where she briefly lost her composure and revealed her emotions about her commitment to politics, that she began to connect with many average Americans. It is widely believed that this moment of emotion was enough for her to eke out a narrow victory over Obama in the New Hampshire primary.

Hillary Rodham was born in Chicago on October 26, 1947, the daughter of a former U.S. Navy officer who always expected nothing but the best from her. She credits her family with giving her the drive, determination, and iron will that have served her well in her political career. She studied at Wellesley College and Yale University, where she obtained a law degree. At Yale, she met a young graduate student from Arkansas named Bill Clinton, and they were married in 1973. Five years later, Bill Clinton won election as governor of Arkansas, and Hillary became one of his closest political advisors. The Clintons have one daughter, Chelsea, who was born in 1980 and is now a strong supporter of her mother's presidential bid. Clinton is the author of many books, including *Living History*, a memoir of her years in the White House, and *It Takes a Village*, a commentary on the need for communities to co-operate to achieve social goals.

Clinton proved her loyalty to her husband through a series of embarrassing and widely covered affairs he conducted with other women, including Gennifer Flowers, a former Miss Arkansas, and even more sensationally with Monica Lewinsky, a young White House intern with whom Clinton pursued a much-publicized liaison during his first and second terms as president. This second scandal almost cost Clinton the presidency, as he narrowly avoided an

impeachment vote in the Senate in 1999. Throughout this ordeal, Hillary Clinton remained loyal to her husband and denounced his political and media critics as a "vast right-wing conspiracy" that she believed was determined to remove him from office. As first lady during her husband's first term as president, from 1993 to 1997, Clinton was also instrumental in seeking to achieve a national public health-care system for Americans.

Her failure to bring this program to fruition left her determined to try again as the Democratic nominee, and as a result she has made health care one of the major issues of her campaign. But her vote in the Senate in support of President Bush's war in Iraq in early 2003 has come back to haunt her in the campaign because of the attacks on her position from her main rival, Barack Obama, who was opposed to the war from the start. While Clinton now claims she no longer supports the Iraq war and calls for U.S. troops to be withdrawn, her earlier support for a now extremely unpopular conflict has cost her dearly with strongly anti-war Democratic primary voters.

As first lady and U.S. senator, Clinton has always been a political figure who has attracted strong support and equally strong opposition. She is viewed as someone with great intelligence, poise, and legislative experience, but also as a divisive figure whose manner alienates many voters. To many women, she represents the hope that she may succeed in breaking through the "glass ceiling" by becoming the first female president, and she continues to enjoy solid backing among some of the core constituencies of the Democratic Party, including Hispanic voters, women, and industrial workers. However, she had been caught by surprise by Obama's unexpectedly powerful challenge to a nomination she believed at the outset to

be hers, and has sometimes responded with anger and frustration to the Illinois senator, particularly over what she views as his lack of experience compared with her own record. Whether she is able to rescue what was increasingly appearing to be a floundering candidacy in the days before the key primaries in Texas and Ohio remains to be seen.

John McCain

“For all of the grandiose promises made in this campaign, has any candidate spoken honestly to the American people about the government’s role and failings and about individual responsibility?”

— John McCain

Arizona Senator John McCain is a straight-shooting, sometimes blunt politician with a chequered past in his own Republican Party. The fact that he had all but locked up the presidential nomination by the end of February 2008 was one of the biggest surprises of the campaign, since his presidential bid, always a long-shot, had more than once been given up for dead. Should McCain be elected president in November 2008, he will make history as the oldest incoming U.S. president, at the age of 72. McCain’s single-minded pursuit of his party’s leadership, against formidable opponents, strong internal opposition, and long odds, is a testament to his determination and strength of character, which were tested severely during over five years in captivity in North Vietnam as a U.S. prisoner of war.

McCain was born on August 29, 1936, in the Panama Canal Zone, then a U.S.-administered territory surrounding the strategic Panama Canal. His father was a career Navy officer, and McCain followed in his footsteps, graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1958 and beginning a 22-year stint as a Navy pilot. He was deployed to Vietnam in 1967

and was shot down during a bombing run in North Vietnam, narrowly escaping death by drowning as he floundered with both arms broken in a lake near the power station his bombs had just destroyed. Local peasants rescued him and handed him over to the authorities. For the next five years, he endured the harsh conditions of a North Vietnamese prison, which captured U.S. pilots nicknamed the “Hanoi Hilton.” There, he claims to have been subjected to severe interrogations and beatings that caused permanent damage to one arm, already injured when he ejected from his fighter-bomber. Largely because of his own experience as a POW, McCain has strongly condemned the use of torture and other brutal interrogation techniques that U.S. troops have meted out to prisoners in Abu Graib prison in Iraq and at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

McCain was freed from captivity in 1973 as the Vietnam War was coming to an ignominious end for the United States. He returned to active duty back home until his retirement from the services in 1981. One year later, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Arizona, and in 1986 won a seat in the Senate, which he has held since then. As a Republican senator, McCain showed a great ability to work in a bipartisan way with his Democratic colleagues to promote a number of major legislative initiatives. These include a law to introduce carbon trading and binding carbon dioxide targets to curb global warming, which he co-sponsored with Democratic Senator Joe Lieberman, who ran for vice-president in 2000, and a controversial immigration bill that offered an amnesty to illegal immigrants living in the United States, which failed to pass through Congress in 2007. In 2002, he co-sponsored a bill with Wisconsin Democratic Senator Russ Feingold to reform U.S. election financing laws in order to reduce the

Definition

Bipartisan refers to a situation where members of two parties, factions, or groups work together to make an agreement or proposal. In the U.S., Republicans and Democrats often work across party lines, a situation that is rare in the Canadian political system.

influence of big money and powerful pressure groups on the American political system.

Because of his stands on issues such as global warming, illegal immigration, and campaign finance reform, McCain has incurred the wrath of the Republican right-wing, which strongly opposes his positions. In addition, his liberal views on abortion and the role of religion in U.S. political life have also put him at odds with the “religious right,” a core Republican constituency responsible for delivering two presidential election victories to George W. Bush. Right-wing radio and television commentators such as Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter have been vehement in their denunciations of McCain and their warnings about what may lie in store for the Republican Party should he win the nomination. As a result, he has been obliged to offer conciliatory gestures to the party’s right-wing, assuring them of his conservative credentials and record, particularly on economic issues. He has also strongly supported the war in Iraq, calling for a greater commitment of U.S. troops to secure victory over insurgents, while at the same time levelling harsh criticisms of the way his Republican president, George W. Bush, has managed the conflict since it began in 2003.

Despite the many challenges his campaign has faced, McCain has persevered doggedly through the ups and downs of the primary season, overcoming serious financial shortfalls and facing off against well-funded rivals such as former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani and multimillionaire former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney. Both chose to back him once their own campaigns had run aground. His one significant rival for the nomination, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, had strong support among social conservatives, particularly in southern states, but was far behind McCain in his delegate total. In early March, Huckabee ceased to be a challenger to the maverick Arizona Senator and prospective Republican presidential candidate. McCain is the author of a series of books stressing themes such as personal bravery, patriotism, and loyalty, whose titles include *Hard Call*, *Character is Destiny*, *Why Courage Matters*, *Worth Fighting For*, and *Faith of My Fathers*.

Source: <http://newsvote.bbc.uk> profiles of Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and John McCain, www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/, CNN election coverage, and www.nytimes.com, *The New York Times* election coverage, candidate profiles

Inquiry

1. From the profiles above, what are the main similarities and differences among the three major candidates for the U.S. presidential nomination, in terms of a) background, b) political experience, and c) views on important national issues?
2. What do you think are the most important strengths and weaknesses of each of the three main presidential candidates? Which of these do you consider most significant for the success of their campaigns, and why?
3. Based on your reading of the profiles, which of the three candidates for the U.S. presidency would you like to see elected president, and why?

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Activity: The Road to Victory

On March 4, 2008, voters in four states—Vermont, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Texas—voted in Republican and Democratic primaries. The results decided the outcome of the Republican nomination contest, with front-runner John McCain reaching the magic number of 1 191 delegates needed to clinch victory. His main rival, Mike Huckabee, conceded defeat. The next day, McCain met with President Bush to receive his formal endorsement. For McCain, who had also contested the nomination against Bush in 2000 without success, his triumph was a vindication of his determination to overcome long odds to win his party's support.

On the Democratic side, however, the race between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama looked certain to continue for some time, after Clinton scored a major comeback victory in three states: Rhode Island, and the two prizes of the night, Texas and Ohio. Had she failed to carry either of these big, delegate-rich states, the future of her campaign bid would have been very uncertain—to say the least. Although she still narrowly trailed Obama in the overall delegate count, her victories were immensely important, breathing new life into what was beginning to appear to be a faltering campaign, and stalling the momentum of Obama's drive for the nomination, which was starting to seem inevitable.

The next major primary, in Pennsylvania, will not be held until April 22. Until then, the two contenders for the Democratic Party nomination will continue their struggle within their own party's ranks, while McCain, his nomination victory behind him, will enjoy the luxury of planning his run for the presidency.

Your Task

Form groups to prepare and present a report to the class on one of the following candidates for the U.S. presidency: John McCain (Republican), Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton (Democrat).

Your report should include the following:

1. Background information on the candidate (see the profiles on pages 40-44)
2. Their positions on the main issues in the campaign
3. The successes and failures of their campaign strategies so far
4. A possible campaign strategy they could follow in the months leading up to the general election in November 2008
5. A brief statement indicating which candidate you think is most likely to become the next president of the United States and why

After each of the groups has reported, stage a mock debate among the candidates with one person from each group representing one of the candidates.

The following Web sites should be consulted for this activity:

- John McCain: www.johnmccain.com
- Barack Obama: www.barackobama.com
- Hillary Clinton: <http://hillaryclinton.com>

In addition, the following Web sites contain useful information about the candidates, parties, issues, and important events:

- CNN election site: www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/
- *The New York Times* election site: www.nytimes.com/pages/politics/index.html

CYBER THIEVES AND IDENTITY THEFT

Introduction

Focus

This *News in Review* story explores the growing problem of identity theft. You will learn how cyber thieves operate, why it is so difficult to catch them, and what you can do to protect yourself.

Further Research

The Web site of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada at www.privcom.gc.ca/id/phishing_e.asp contains a great deal of information about identity theft, including updates about some of the recent scams that have occurred in Canada.

Just imagine. One day you receive a phone call asking you why you haven't made the scheduled payment on your new truck. You reply, "What new truck?" because you have not bought a truck. The caller describes the truck that you purchased the previous month, although you did no such thing. This is exactly what happened to 29-year-old Michelle Brown.

Brown immediately cancelled all her credit cards, issued fraud alerts, and notified her bank. But it was already too late. Brown's identity had been stolen, and authorities couldn't catch up to the thief. Over the next year and a half, Brown's identity was used to rent property, engage in drug trafficking, and purchase more than \$50 000 worth of merchandise. Eventually, the thief was arrested and jailed, but Brown estimates she has spent over 500 hours trying to clear her name and credit reputation.

Brown's case is not unusual. Identity theft—the criminal use of personal information to make fraudulent purchases, open accounts, or take out loans—is the fastest growing economic crime in Canada and throughout the

world. Although exact numbers are hard to determine, the RCMP estimates that \$2-billion was stolen through some form of identity theft in Canada in 2007. And that is just the tip of the iceberg, since only one in 10 thefts in Canada is reported.

In this *News in Review* story you will learn how criminals steal personal information. Often these thefts occur after a criminal has gathered someone's personal information online. This can occur when people disclose too much information on social networking sites like MySpace or Facebook, or when people click on a malicious Web link, or visit a questionable Web site. In other cases, criminals simply collect papers with important banking or personal information out of people's garbage or recycling bins.

In any event, once your identity is stolen, you stand to lose money and time and may have trouble restoring a clean credit history. However, there are a number of steps you can take to reduce the chances of becoming a victim yourself.

To Consider

You have likely grown up with the Internet. Do you consider yourself to be Internet savvy? Record the steps you take to protect your identity and personal information while online. Also record the steps you take to protect your computer from viruses and spyware. When you are finished, share and discuss your list with a partner. Add any new points to your own list. You may choose to take the Spam Q and A on the following page to assess your computer smarts.

Did you know . . .

On May 11, 2004, Canada's Task Force on Spam was established to oversee and co-ordinate the implementation of the Anti-Spam Action Plan for Canada. The final report was released in May 2005. One of the results of the task force was the development of an anti-spam icon that could be hosted on partners' Web sites and would contain a link to user tips. Check out the anti-spam logo at the Stop Spam Here Web site, www.stopspamhere.ca/spyware-e.html#stats. How effective do you think this logo is? Explain.

Spam Q and A

One of the ways your personal information can be stolen is after your computer is infiltrated by a cyber thief. Cyber thieves can attach spyware to your computer, get you to click on malicious Web links, or direct you to malicious Web sites. The following spam quiz includes a selection of questions from the Canadian organization "Stop Spam Here." Answers are below. Visit the Web site at www.stopspamhere.ca for a complete explanation of each of the answers.

1. You receive an e-mail from an organization asking that you "Verify your account information within 24 hours or your account will be frozen." This e-mail may request your password, login name, Social Insurance Number (SIN), credit card details, or other personal information. You know the organization and think you may have subscribed to one of their services. What do you do?
 - a) You reply to the e-mail asking them why they want this information.
 - b) You reply to the e-mail with the information asked for.
 - c) You delete the e-mail.
2. To reduce spam, you can:
 - a) Use one e-mail address for friends and family and instruct them not to supply that address to others. Create a second address for trusted businesses.
 - b) Create temporary "throw-away" e-mail addresses that you use for specific purposes such as newsgroup and newsletter subscriptions, message board postings, and other online services that require an e-mail address.
 - c) Do both a and b.
3. You have an easy-to-remember password and you use the same password everywhere, even for your bank account. You have heard that you should use different passwords for your accounts and change them regularly. What should you really do?
 - a) Continue using the same password.
 - b) Create passwords made up of mixed characters and numbers (such as 5gtha6bp), and change your account passwords once a month.
 - c) Create three passwords based on your favourite names and rotate those between your accounts every three months.
 - d) Keep a list of 20 short, easy-to-remember word passwords in a file on your computer. Then you can look them up and change your account passwords every six months.
4. To help minimize the amount of spam you receive, turn off the preview pane—a window that allows you to preview the contents of an e-mail message—in your e-mail software.
 - a) True
 - b) False
 - c) Good e-mail software protection allows you to use the preview pane without potentially harming your computer system.
5. After checking your e-mail, your computer starts behaving unusually. You:
 - a) Install or update anti-virus and firewall software and run a full-system scan.
 - b) Configure your firewall so that it prompts you every time a program on your computer attempts to connect to the Internet.
 - c) Check for any unauthorized use of your personal accounts, including banking, credit card, e-commerce, e-mail, and any other password-protected account.
 - d) a, b and c

Answers 1. c, 2. c, 3. b, 4. a, 5. d

CYBER THIEVES AND IDENTITY THEFT

Video Review

Further Research

PhoneBusters is a national anti-fraud call centre jointly operated by the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. PhoneBusters collects information on telemarketing fraud, advanced fee fraud letters, and identity theft complaints. You can learn more about fraud and identity theft by checking out their Web site at www.phonebusters.com.

Further Research

The Web site of the popular television show *America's Most Wanted* has information related to cyber-bullying, identity theft, and Internet predators. Check it out at www.amw.com/safety/?cat=11.

Respond to the following questions as you view the video.

1. What is the general profile of an identity thief?

2. How do identity thieves use chat rooms?

3. How do police and other people trying to stop cyber crime use the same chat rooms?

4. How large is the problem of identity theft?

5. How much does it cost thieves to buy the following?

a) A credit card _____

b) Your full profile _____

6. Why don't the authorities shut down the chat rooms where stolen personal information is bought and sold?

7. Describe what happened to the following two people.

a) James Perks

b) Cory

CYBER THIEVES AND IDENTITY THEFT

Identity Theft

Further Research

The Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG) is an industry association focused on eliminating the identity theft and fraud that result from the growing problem of phishing and e-mail spoofing. The organization provides a forum to discuss phishing issues, trials and evaluations of potential technology solutions, and access to a centralized repository of phishing attacks. See their Web site (www.antiphishing.org) for statistics and examples of phishing e-mails.

What Is It?

Identity theft involves stealing or misrepresenting the identity of another person or business. Once an identity has been stolen it can be used to withdraw money, open new bank accounts, apply for loans or credit cards, and purchase vehicles or property. In some cases, the thief may even use the stolen identity to engage in criminal activity such as drug dealing.

How Does It Happen?

There are a lot of ways that thieves can steal an identity. One way is to get possession of a person's debit card (ATM card) and their personal identification number (PIN). The information on debit cards is much easier to steal than the information on credit cards. So experts advise using cash or credit cards whenever possible.

Another way thieves steal information is by "phishing." Phishing involves sending an e-mail to a user falsely claiming to be a legitimate business or organization in an attempt to scam the user into disclosing private information. Usually, there is an HTML link within

the e-mail that you are asked to click on. Once you click on the link you are taken to a fraudulent Web site and asked to provide personal information.

One of the more recent scams to steal personal information is called "vishing" or voice phishing. Vishing involves the criminal use of technology called Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). The way it works is that a person receives a recorded telephone message claiming to be from an established organization. The message asks the person to call the company back at a fraudulent phone number and then requests that the person punch in their personal information on their telephone pad. The thieves convert the key tones back into numerical format and steal the information.

You might be surprised to learn that one of the most common ways for thieves to steal the information they need for identity theft is simply to search through garbage. Many people recycle bank statements, credit information, or pre-printed forms that contain personal information. When those documents are disposed of without being shredded they can fall into the hands of identity thieves.

For Discussion

Have you or any of your friends or family members had any experience with "phishing" or "vishing?" If so, explain the situation and how you handled it.

CYBER THIEVES AND IDENTITY THEFT

Teenagers and Identity Theft

Further Research

Internet 101 began in 2004 as a collaborative project between police forces in the National Capital Region–Ottawa. Police officers became concerned after seeing media reports of a local Web site where teenagers posted explicit photos of themselves and personal information. The result was the first Internet 101 workshop and the formation of www.internet101.ca. Check out the Web site, which contains real stories of children and teens who have had negative experiences because of contacts they made over the Internet. The site also contains tips on how to protect yourself from ending up in a similar situation.

You might be surprised to learn that teenagers are particularly vulnerable to identity theft. One of the reasons is because of the large amount of time they spend on the Internet. Another reason is that once teenagers go off to college or university they receive an excessive amount of mail containing credit-card applications and promotional materials.

MySpace and Facebook

Many teenagers spend time each day or week on MySpace or Facebook. These social networking sites have become the primary way that many teens communicate with each other. Instead of phoning one another, for example, they may log on to communicate with their friends.

Social networking sites can make users vulnerable to identity theft because they allow each user to “link” to other people’s pages by creating a list of “friends.” “Friends” can then use message boards to send and receive messages and “new friend requests.” Many MySpace and Facebook users share personal information, including photos, with each other.

Criminals who are involved in “spear phishing” act like a member of a social networking site and gain access to personal data posted on users’ pages. The phisher then uses the personal information to strike up a relationship with a particular user or users. Once a relationship is established, the thief often leaves a message in a target’s inbox, asking questions that will result in more personal information being released. Or the message may contain a link to a fraudulent site, or contain malicious code that prompts users for information. It does not take long for the thief to gather

enough information to steal the person’s identity.

Unfortunately, most teenagers who have been victims of identity theft do not find out they’ve been victimized until they try to apply for credit in their own name when they become an adult. It is at that time that they may discover that someone has been making charges in their name for years, and they could be tens of thousands of dollars in debt. According to the Federal Trade Commission, in the United States in the year 2006 nearly 11 000 reports were filed for people under the age of 18 who had discovered unpaid bills, credit cards, and loan applications in their name.

“Smileys” and Screen Savers

Another reason teenagers are vulnerable to cyber crime is because they tend to visit sites that are more likely to aggressively infiltrate a visitor’s computer. Adult sites and sites offering screen savers, “Smileys,” wallpaper bundles and cursor enhancements often attach spyware or extra software to the visitor’s computer. Many computer users are unaware that spyware has infiltrated their computer and is recording information about every site the user visits. Spyware and other malicious software can collect a host of personal information about the user.

Credit Card Offers

Very shortly after teenagers begin college or university they begin to receive offers for credit cards in the mail. In some studies, up to 50 per cent of college students in the U.S. received credit-card applications on a daily or weekly basis. Students often throw away these applications as junk mail.

However, the promotions are often pre-approved credit-card applications that contain complete personal information. Identity thieves simply have to scoop up the discarded credit-card applications from a garbage or recycling bin to steal someone's identity.

Promotional Offers

In addition to credit-card applications, teenagers and young adults receive many promotional offers, either through the mail, advertisements on campus, or online. In many cases, the promotional offers are disguised as "experiments"

where students are asked to participate in surveys in exchange for coupons, free merchandise, or the promise of a small amount of cash. Journalist Neil Weicher wrote about one scam where a company offered students free pizza in exchange for their personal information (*Business Week Online*, May 8, 2007). When he investigated, he watched students spend over 15 minutes filling in a double-sided form that included personal information about themselves and their parents in exchange for their "free" two-dollar slice of pizza.

Follow-up

In small groups, discuss your own personal experiences with the information and situations discussed in this feature. You may want to consider some of the following questions:

- How carefully do you screen your "friends" on social networking sites?
- Have you ever shared personal information on such sites?
- Do you know anyone who has ever had problems because of contacts they've made on social networking sites? How were the problems resolved?
- Have you ever received a credit-card offer or a special promotional offer containing or requesting your personal information? If so, what did you do with the offer?

CYBER THIEVES AND IDENTITY THEFT

Case Studies

Tip

If you do online banking, it is easy to check your accounts on a daily basis and catch any unusual activity almost instantly.

Activity: Exploring Personal Stories

Get into a small group with three or four other students. With your group members, discuss whether or not any of you know someone who has been a victim of identity theft. At the conclusion of your discussion, select one of the cases and use it to complete a “5Ws Chart.” If your group does not know anyone who has been a victim of identity theft, then use one of the case studies that follow to complete the chart.

To create a “5Ws Chart” create a two-column chart in your notebook. Title your chart “The 5Ws of Identity Theft.” In the left-hand column, record the words *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *why*. In the right-hand column, fill in the details that answer each question. Select one member of your group to share your information with the class.

Case Study 1: Carol’s story

Carol lives outside Toronto and had never given much thought to the issue of identity theft. One day she received a phone call from her bank asking her if she had recently made a series of withdrawals with her ATM card. At first, she was suspicious about whether the person calling was actually from her bank. The caller gave Carol more information about who she was and a number to phone to confirm the information. The caller was from Carol’s bank.

Carol was asked to come to the bank to discuss unusual activity on her bank card. Once at the bank, Carol found out that three withdrawals for \$500 each had been made within a short period of time the night before. Another attempt to withdraw \$500 more had been made early that morning. Carol confirmed that she had not made the withdrawals, and the bank took her ATM card.

After further investigation, the bank was able to determine that Carol had been the victim of identity theft. Somehow, someone had gotten Carol’s bank account number and her personal identification number (PIN). She was eventually issued a new ATM card, and the bank provided advice on how to select a PIN that is difficult for thieves to decode.

Carol has had no further problems with identity theft and feels she was very fortunate. The bank restored the money to her account and she didn’t have to pay any penalties or fees related to the theft. She also says that bank employees were very helpful and never accusatory.

On a personal level, she says that she is much less trusting. She never uses independent ATMs and only uses her debit card for the most usual things like shopping at her local grocery store. She has also reduced the withdrawal and credit amounts on all of her cards. Until the theft from her account, she was unaware that her daily withdrawal allowance was \$1 500. She also tries to keep all her receipts and to double-check bank statements.

Case Study 2: Jon’s Story

Like Carol, Jon hadn’t given much thought to identity theft until he received a strange phone call from The Home Depot. The caller wanted to know if Jon had a Home Depot card, if he knew anyone with a Home Depot card, whether he’d ever applied for a card, or whether he’d ever purchased anything from The Home Depot in Hamilton. Jon replied “no” to all of the questions.

Jon was surprised to discover that

credit cards had been opened in his name at Staples, Office Depot, and The Home Depot and that \$20 000 had been charged to the accounts over a period of three days. Jon reiterated that he had never opened the accounts and had not charged anything at the stores in question.

The Home Depot then conducted further research. They located the specific transaction times and dates when purchases were made at The Home Depot in Hamilton. They then searched the in-store surveillance tapes from those particular times to get a visual of the person who made the purchases. Jon was asked to sign an affidavit and provide the photo on his driver's license. The Home Depot was then able to confirm that the person who made the purchases was not Jon.

While The Home Depot was conducting their investigation, Jon called the RCMP's fraud division to see what he could do about the theft. They provided him with information and recommended that he contact Equifax (www.equifax.ca) and Trans Union Canada (www.transunion.ca), Canada's national credit reporting agencies, for copies of his credit reports. Credit

reports reveal all credit activity that occurs in a person's name. Jon requested and received credit reports from both companies.

Although Jon will never know how he became a victim of identity theft, The Home Depot was able to tell him that the person who applied for the credit cards had his social insurance number and his current home address. Jon does not carry his social insurance number with him and believes he had only provided the number once in the preceding six months. And that was to his bank. Interestingly enough, Jon's name was spelled incorrectly on the credit card applications, but this did not stop the applications from being processed.

Jon did not have to pay for the debt that was acquired in his name. He has not had any further problems, but has been unable to apply for "instant" credit since the theft. Instant credit refers to credit cards you apply for in-store to receive a discount off a purchase you are making. For example, if you are purchasing something worth \$200, you may be asked if you want to apply for a store credit card to receive an instant 10 per cent off the purchase price.

CYBER THIEVES AND IDENTITY THEFT

Protecting Your Identity

Further Research

How tough would it be to decode your password? Microsoft has a tool that tests password strength at www.microsoft.com/protect/yourself/password/checker.mspx.

Although it is true that there is probably nothing you can do to absolutely guarantee you won't be a victim of identity theft, there are a number of steps you can take to protect your identity. The following points have been compiled from experts working in the field of identity theft and from people who have been victims of identity theft.

What You Can Do

1. Buy a paper shredder.

One study, conducted in England in 2002, examined the garbage of over 400 households. More than 85 per cent of household garbage bins contained information that could be used by identity thieves. That included credit card statements, papers with a full credit card or debit card number, and intact bank-account numbers. According to Jay Foley, director of consumer and victim services with the Identity Theft Resource Center in San Diego, raiding garbage pails and recycling boxes is one of the most common ways that thieves gather information to conduct identity theft.

2. Do not share your personal information.

Do not give out any personal information over the phone or online. Keep all records containing personal information in a safe place, and shred them when you no longer need them.

3. Protect your social insurance number (SIN).

Your SIN is probably the most valuable piece of information needed for identity theft. Do not provide your social insurance number (SIN) to anyone. In some cases, doctors or dentists ask for the number, but there is no reason for them to have it. As well, don't provide

your SIN on job applications or ever write it on a cheque. If you are hired for a job, then you will be required by the company to provide the number. But do not provide it on the application before you are hired. And finally, do not carry your SIN card in your wallet.

4. Be careful with your personal identification number (PIN).

Think carefully about your PIN. The longer your PIN is the better. That is, use the maximum number of characters allowed. As well, use a mix of numbers and letters in your PIN. According to experts, a good PIN is long, is not a dictionary word, or anything that someone who knows a bit about you could guess. And although it may seem obvious, never write your PIN on your ATM card or credit cards. Surprisingly, in the majority of cases of ATM and credit card fraud, victims had written their passwords on their cards.

5. Use a firewall and virus-protection software.

Help to reduce the chances your computer will be hacked by installing virus-protection software and updating it regularly. If a hacker gets into your computer, not only can your computer be destroyed, but your personal information can be stolen and sold to criminals.

If you have a high-speed Internet hook-up, your computer is connected to the Internet at all times. A firewall program helps to stop hackers from accessing your computer.

6. Don't get caught in a phishing scam.

Phishing scams use junk e-mail, posing as legitimate e-mail, to trick people into disclosing personal information like

birth dates, social insurance numbers, or banking information. The fake e-mail is carefully designed to look real, usually using actual branded logos or trademarks of established companies. The phishers then direct the victims to a fake site that offers a free prize, a tempting contest, or claims that new account information is required.

For example, in 2003, a thief sent out thousands of e-mails to consumers with America Online (AOL) accounts, which looked like they were official e-mails from AOL. The e-mails used the AOL logo, trademark colours, and hyperlinks to true AOL sites. At the end of the e-mail, the victims were directed to a mock-AOL site that requested new billing information to correct an error with the account.

7. Don't just dump your old computer.

Before you throw out or sell your old computer, make sure that you delete all personal information from your hard drive. Usually, deleting files using the keyboard or mouse commands is

not enough to erase the file from your hard drive. You need to completely "wipe" your hard drive to make sure that your files are not recoverable. One study in the United States found that researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology were able to recover sensitive information from old hard drives one-third to one-half of the time.

8. Buy carefully when you buy online.

Never purchase anything online unless you are on a secure site. Secure sites have an "s" in the URL and a "lock" icon on your browser's status bar. In addition, you may want to consider using one credit card just for online purchases. This may make it easier to track any odd transactions, and it does not expose your main credit card to online theft.

9. Limit your use of debit cards.

Cash and credit cards are much safer because they do not leave any trace of your bank account information. Debit card fraud is a major aspect of identity theft.

Activity

Make a checklist of five steps you and your family could take to protect your identity. Then interview your parents to find out how many of these steps your family is already taking. Come up with a plan for how you might be able to implement some additional precautions from your checklist.

CYBER THIEVES AND IDENTITY THEFT

Activity: Keeping Kids Safe(r)

Most teenagers have a good sense of how to keep themselves safe while online. Many younger children, however, may not have the maturity to understand the dangers that exist online. With your experience and knowledge you can help to prevent identity theft and the exploitation of children.

Your Task

Design an educational campaign about Internet safety aimed at younger children. You will have to decide two things:

1. What information you want to include in your campaign
2. How you want to reach your audience

The Information

The following information about Internet safety and identity theft as it relates to children was taken from the article "The Complete Layman's Guide to Cyber Safety" (*Money*, December, 2006). It will provide a starting point for your product, but you will have to conduct additional research on this topic. Check out some of the Web sites referred to in the margin of the pages throughout this *News in Review* story.

- Teach kids to value privacy. Their name, phone number, address, personal and family information is not to be shared online.
- Teach kids the Internet is public. Anything they say or do online becomes part of the public domain and can be sent from person-to-person for years to come.
- Strangers are strangers. Just because you have met someone online does not mean that he or she is a friend. Don't ever arrange to meet anyone you first met online.
- Be very careful with photos. Posting photos increases the chance that someone will try to contact you. Photos can be edited and doctored and used in ways that a person never originally intended.
- Limit computer time. Parents should control computer time just the way they control time in front of the television.
- No secrets allowed. Children should expect to show parents any Web pages, blogs, or profiles on networking sites. Young children need help to make good decisions.

Your Product

Decide the best way to deliver your information. You will want your final product to be engaging and appealing to children. You may want to produce a poster series, a number of pamphlets, a video or DVD, a song, a play, or a presentation. Discuss your choice with your teacher.

Extension

If your class produces some good material, consider sharing it with younger students in your school or another school in your community.

News in Review Index

A list of the stories covered last season and to date in the current season is provided below.

The complete chronological index for all 17 seasons of *News in Review*, and a subject-oriented index listing *News in Review* stories appropriate for various subject areas can be accessed through our Web site at www.cbc.ca/newsinreview. Hard copies of these indexes can also be obtained by contacting CBC Learning.

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Quebec's Big Accommodation Debate
Lake Superior: Where Did the Water Go?

FEBRUARY 2008

The Assassination of Benazir Bhutto
Cracking Down on Tasers
The Oil Sands and the Environment
The Hidden Wounds of War

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