

Follow-up to Fourth Bilateral Discussions on Cultural Relations between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany, 1985

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Article 3.1 Educational exchange at the secondary level

Financial restraint has precluded expansion of existing programmes, despite real expressions of interest on the part of several provinces.

The Conference of Ministers of Education at the Lander (KMK) continues to keep the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada informed of its activities and interest in this domain.

Article 4.2 Stimulation of interest in the German language in schools

Bilingual programmes (German-English) exist in a limited number of school boards in Alberta and Manitoba. In addition, in order to improve the effectiveness of their heritage language programmes, the Governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan have entered into a formal agreement, sharing the services of a German-language consultant from the Federal Republic of Germany, who works in Manitoba for nine months and in Saskatchewan for up to three months.

Article 5.2 Exchange of persons

In the past two years, the CMEC has hosted visitors from Ministries of Education of three Lander, and one person from the KMK Secretariat.

The CMEC also sent a representative to the KMK Secretariat in November 1985 to review and familiarize himself with the KMK's work in the field of the recognition of studies, degrees and diplomas.

Other Differential fees in the universities of some Provinces

This matter came up under article 3.2 (Exchange at university level), but is treated separately because it was highlighted by the Head of the German Delegation as an irritant in otherwise excellent academic and cultural relations.

At the Bilateral Discussions in Bonn, the CMEC representative indicated that he would "refer the matter again to the appropriate authorities", i.e. the ministries/departments responsible for education.

Essentially, the situation concerning differential fees has not changed since 1975, though Ministers have taken note of the German concerns. Discussions have, however, been initiated between the Provinces on all matters bearing on foreign students in Canada, and the range of topics include differential fees, which are charged in seven Provinces at the undergraduate level and in six at the graduate level. It is expected that federal-provincial discussions on foreign students will also touch on this issue, though it is not expected that any conclusions will be reached in time for the Fifth Bilateral Discussions in 1987.