

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, and the Secretary of State, the Honourable J. Hugh Faulkner, jointly announced in Ottawa today the publication by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) of the OECD Report on the Review of Education Policies in Canada. The release of the report was also announced at the same time in Toronto by the Honourable Bennett Campbell, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, and Minister of Education for Prince Edward Island.

As part of its regular program of activities, the OECD, of which Canada is a member, conducts from time to time comprehensive reviews of education policies in its member states. Such reviews have already been carried out successfully in several countries. The purposes of the Canadian Review were twofold: to acquaint others with educational developments in Canada and, by examining the objectives, structures and content of Canadian educational systems, to assist Canadian education authorities in planning more effectively for the future.

The completion of this comprehensive review, which was coordinated by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, in close cooperation with the Government of Canada is the culmination of over three years' work. The first stage was the preparation of a six-volume background report by Canadian authorities on education in Canada. This background report consisted of an introductory volume, a volume by the Government of Canada, and four regional volumes (Atlantic Provinces, Québec, Ontario and Western Provinces). The second stage, following submission of the background reports to the OECD, was an "external" examination of education policies and systems across Canada by a team of five internationally renowned education experts selected by the OECD. The five examiners toured the country and prepared a report based on their first-hand observations. The third and final stage of the review consisted of a "confrontation" meeting during which representatives of the Canadian educational authorities responded to questions raised by the examiners in their report. This "confrontation" meeting took place in the OECD Education Committee in Paris in December 1975.

The final report of the OECD Review of Education Policies in Canada, which has now been published, includes the introductory volume of the Canadian background report, the report of the external examiners and a summary of the proceedings of the December 1975 meeting.