

In more specific terms, responsibility for agreements and memoranda of understanding with respect to sport and recreation resides with the Minister of State for Sport and Recreation. For the last years, a number of memoranda and exchange agreements have been signed with countries as diverse as Hungary, Cuba, Poland and China. In addition, "green papers" on national sport policy and national recreation policy have been released in order to solicit feedback from the sports and recreational communities respectively. Once this feedback has been fully assessed, it is the intention to release "white papers" in these fields which will plot future national and international developments for years to come. Ever since the passage of the Act to Encourage Fitness and Amateur Sport in 1961, Canada's involvement in international sport on both an amateur and professional basis has escalated dramatically, which helps to account for the excellent showing of Canadian athletes at the recent Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

If Canada is becoming more and more active in the sport and recreation fields as a result of its increased interest in physical fitness and athletic competition with other countries, it is also becoming much more active in certain environmental matters. Each year, numerous authorities from abroad arrive in Canada to study Canada's park and conservation system - a system that is internationally recognized to be one of the finest in the world. In this field, primary authority for international matters rests with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Many branches of the Department are engaged in international activities of a cultural nature. In the environmental field, Parks Canada plays a leading role; its work is part of a worldwide movement to protect and present aspects of the environmental heritage which are shared by all the earth's inhabitants. The Parks Canada program is designed to meet international conservation objectives in a number of ways, such as by fulfilling Canada's responsibilities as an adherent to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted by Unesco in 1972; by participating in international heritage organizations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the International Council of Monuments and Sites; by reflecting international criteria and standards for the protection of heritage resources in its policies; by participating in bilateral exchanges of people and information with heritage agencies in other countries; and by responding where possible to the frequent requests from other countries for assistance in the development of their heritage conservation programs. To honour these objectives and commitments, Parks Canada officials are constantly travelling to other countries and receiving delegations from other countries. In the arts and craft field, in order to service the large and growing demand for Indian and Inuit arts and crafts around the world, the Indian and Eskimo Affairs Branch is becoming steadily more and more involved in the international promotion, marketing and exhibition of Indian and Inuit arts and crafts.

In the scientific domain, the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, the National Research Council and the Science Council of Canada play a leading role. The international activities of these latter two agencies are particularly interesting. The National Research Council is a crown corporation concerned with pure and applied research in many scientific and technical areas. To undertake this work effectively, it has a number of laboratories located in Ottawa as well as across the country. In addition, it provides encouragement and assistance in research to universities and industry and disseminates information through the Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information and the Technical Information Service. Through the Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical