

India hosts French Canadian studies conference

It is a sign of the maturity of International Canadian Studies that a major conference on French Canadian Studies was held at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, December 9 - 13, 1991.

The conference featured seminars on French Canadian Studies in the fields of multiculturalism, comparative literature, didactics, theatre and cinema, linguistics and semiotics.

Jean Cléo Godin, *Centre d'études Québécoises*, Université de Montréal, attended the conference. In a letter to the department he described the event.

"Tous les participants canadiens ont été étonnés du nombre d'Indiens parlant un excellent français et possédant déjà de solides connaissances en littératures canadienne et québécoise. Le colloque de New Delhi a connu un grand succès et il a été d'un haut niveau intellectuel, ce qu'on pourra aisément vérifier à la publication (prochaine) des *Actes*. De toute évidence, les échanges entre l'Inde et les études canadiennes (en français aussi bien qu'en anglais) reposent déjà sur des bases solides et larges, les chercheurs indiens que j'ai rencontrés sont dynamiques et ouverts et l'Institut Shastri, qui finance de nombreux échanges, semble déterminé à développer un secteur francophone."

In an article entitled "Pacific Views of Canada: Canadian Studies Research in Asia-Oceania," Alan F. J. Artibise comments on the growth of Canadian studies in India:

"The last three years have witnessed a phenomenal increase in research activities on Canadian Studies in Indian Universities. The credit for this upsurge goes to External Affairs and International Trade Canada which has made available three significant types of grants: Faculty Enrichment Program Awards, Faculty Research Program Awards and Canadian Studies Graduate Student Awards operated through the Shastri Institute. In the past three years

alone, as many 52 Indian university and college teachers have visited Canadian universities ..."

In response to Canadian funding initiatives in Canadian Studies, India approved support in the amount of \$750 000 over the next five years for Canadian studies activities in India.

The promotion of French Canadian Studies by the federal government within the context of the promotion of Canadian Studies continues around the globe.

Just south of the border, the American Council for Quebec Studies conducted a survey of 249 participants in Quebec Studies. The results were published in "Plus ou Moins: The State of Quebec Studies in the United States, 1990," by Professor Robert Gill, Political Science, Radford University, and Professor Jeanne Kissner, Center for the Study of Canada, State University of New York - Plattsburgh.

The survey revealed some interesting developments in the field.

"Without a doubt, the most important finding to emerge from this survey - and the most significant for the future development of Quebec Studies - is that a majority (54.41 per cent) of the respondents are in areas of academic expertise other than French language and literature. Historically, professors of French have constituted the core of Quebec Studies. To the extent that respondents are representative of the field, the preponderance of respondents from disciplines other than French represents a noteworthy development, one which bodes well for the future of Quebec Studies as a truly multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary field," say Professors Gill and Kissner.

External Affairs and International Trade Canada's continued support of centres for Canadian Studies is given some of the credit for this development.

"It can be anticipated that many members of a new generation of American scholars in Quebec

Studies will be products of Canadian and Quebec Studies programs, and therefore will have attained a degree of competence in French as part of their overall educational background."

One of "Plus ou Moins" major recommendations is that a sustained effort be made to heighten the visibility of Quebec Studies in American business schools.

"The American Council for Quebec Studies has a special obligation not only to publicize its existence and activities among professors of business," say Professors Gill and Kissner, "but also to organize programs on topics of special interest to them and to solicit their participation in them."

One of the oldest and largest associations for Canadian Studies, both English and French, is the Association française d'études canadiennes.

Professor Jean-Michel Lacroix, president of the International Council for Canadian Studies from 1989-1991, recently published a book surveying the membership and activities of the Association française d'études canadiennes, "Bilan des études canadiennes en France."

The publication gives a good overview of Canadian and Quebec Studies in France. It shows that the Association française d'études canadiennes has 224 individual members and 207 institutional members. Of the institutional members, 46 are in France and 161 are located outside the country. The association organizes an annual colloquium, oversees the creation of new centres for Canadian Studies, and co-operates with other European associations for Canadian Studies.

Dr. Lacroix recently assumed a prestigious chair at the Université de Paris III - Sorbonne Nouvelle. This is the first time that a Canadianist has occupied such a position and shortly after his arrival Dr. Lacroix established a Canadian Studies centre at the Sorbonne.