

in Britain



Photo: University of Newcastle upon Tyne

Academic Relations Officer Michael Hellyer presents a copy of The Canadian Encyclopedia to Dr Janet Momsen in front of The National Atlas of Canada display at the Newcastle seminar.

supported by BACS, the Centre of Canadian Studies at Edinburgh and the Canadian High Commission in London.

The seminar therefore brought together a broad mix of Canadianists from different parts of the UK. It also succeeded in carrying its message to a much-wider audience. After the seminar, Dr Janet Momsen, director of the Canadian Studies Programme, was interviewed with a colleague on the 'Look North' television programme. A week later, she was again interviewed on the BBC radio programme, Woman's Hour.

Contributions welcome

Throughout the growth of Canadian studies in the UK, the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa has been highly supportive. However the rate of growth has outstripped current government funding. The contributions of the provincial governments and of the private sector have therefore been doubly welcome.

Allied Lyons is sponsoring a Lectureship in International Relations (Canada) at Leeds University, and Olympia and York is sponsoring the Samuel Reichmann Fellowship in Canadian Studies at Cambridge University.

Other aspects of the UK Canadian Studies programme have been supported by companies like American Express, Bank of Montreal, British Petroleum, The Daily Telegraph, DHL International, IBM, Imperial Trident, Lilly industries Ltd, Lloyds Bank, Northern Telecom, Ultramar, and Wardair (now Canadian Airlines International).

Partnerships between sponsors and academics can be of help to companies that want to establish useful contacts for recruitment, research or publicity. They can also help companies explore new ideas before those ideas are introduced within the context of a particular industry.

New links forged

As Britain draws closer towards her European partners, Canadianists in the UK find themselves forging new links with their counterparts elsewhere in the European Community.

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Canadian High Commission: Ten point Canadian Studies Programme

- 1 - Support for and work with the BACS and its Specialist Groups
- 2 - Work with the Foundation for Canadian Studies in the UK to fund Canadian Studies in Britain.
- 3 - Administer competitive awards to encourage teaching, research and publication about Canada.
- 4 - Work with Curriculum Development projects to introduce Canada into British secondary schools.
- 5 - Organise Canada House Lecture Series and publish texts.
- 6 - Compile and publish academic information.
- 7 - Support for and work with Canadian Study Centres, Regional Groupings and Programmes.
- 8 - Disseminate information about and assist the development of Canadian holdings in libraries.
- 9 - Encourage academic participation in Canada/UK relations.
- 10 - Encourage UK Canadian Studies co-operation with other parts of Europe and internationally.

In November last year, for example, the literature groups of the British and German associations jointly organised a conference in Kiel, West Germany.

On a wider scale, BACS works closely with the International Council for Canadian Studies, which collaborates with the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa, helping to organise cooperative ventures between existing national associations, and to spread Canadian Studies programmes to parts of the world where they are still in their infancy.

These links in turn forge other links, extending a knowledge and awareness of Canada to different groups and audiences. Canadianists are not just teachers and academics; they are also writers, communicators, consultants, advisors, members of political parties, and commercial concerns. Their students, too, become teachers, journalists, industrialists, and government officials.

Together, they help to raise the profile of Canada - promoting a greater understanding of what the country is and of the role it can play in a rapidly changing world. 

