



As the Department responsible for the articulation of Canada's external cultural policy, it behooves the Department of External Affairs to develop a central repository of information and an efficient information system encompassing all activities and developments in this field. Over time, not only would a more accurate and comprehensive picture of Canada's total international cultural relations emerge, but people in the cultural field would get accustomed to contacting the Department when they were undertaking or planning to undertake trips abroad. In this way, it would be possible to capitalize on the many opportunities which are missed at present for lack of an effective system of information collection, storage and dissemination.

Federal-Provincial Relations

If development of the necessary infra-structure in Ottawa and the posts abroad is the most important need facing the country and the Department of External Affairs at the present time, the need for much more consultation and coordination - particularly among the appropriate federal and provincial bodies as well as between these bodies and the cultural community - is not far behind. As has already been observed, the Federal Republic of Germany has had the most experience in this particular field. In that country, the Department of Foreign Affairs works closely with the Lander or provincial governments, the Standing Conference of Ministers, and numerous private organizations and individuals in the formulation and implementation of the country's external cultural policies.

Canada's inability to build a comprehensive program of international cultural relations to date is a collective inability; many public and private institutions are responsible for it. No single institution - such as the Department of External Affairs or the Canada Council - is responsible for the deficiencies which exist at present. It follows from this that responsibility for developing these relations is a collective responsibility. If many public and private institutions and agencies do not assume this responsibility and participate actively in its financing, promotion, administration and coordination, deficiencies in this area will persist and Canada will continue to lose out on the numerous economic, political, social, aesthetic and intellectual advantages which could be enjoyed if these relations were more fully developed.

Given the need for an upsurge in Canada's international cultural relations, the escalating involvement of Canada's provincial authorities is a welcome relief. So is the emergence of a systematic structure for consultation and coordination between the Department of External Affairs and its provincial counterparts. Although mixed commissions involving federal, provincial, municipal and private representations have been used for some time to assess and develop Canada's relation with other countries, additional mechanisms are being put in place which help to enhance consultation and coordination between the federal and provincial authorities operating in this field. In terms of the various sectors of culture presented earlier, consultation and coordination in the field of education takes place largely between the Department of External Affairs, the respective provincial ministries of education or university affairs and the newly-created Council of Ministers of Education. As science is largely subsumed under education at the provincial level, this structure tends to cover science as well. As far as the arts, the crafts, multiculturalism, the mass media, sports and recreation are concerned, consultation and coordination in these areas is being dealt with more and more by the provincial