

areas as economic growth, manpower training, accessibility, mobility, research and technological advancement, official languages, Canadian studies, the education of native Canadians, military studies and international relations. The list of objectives for post-secondary education closely parallels many of those presented by other witnesses. Those that appear to be most in tune with the suggestions of spokesmen for the post-secondary sector and for a number of provincial governments, are set out in the following quotations from the Secretary of State's testimony:

General support of the post-secondary system objective: to assist in maintaining and strengthening a general knowledge, learning and critical capacity in the post-secondary system...which provides the infra-structure..to meet more specific objectives...with particular emphasis on pan-Canadian concerns.

Manpower objectives: to promote adequate levels of training...particularly for occupations requiring highly skilled nationally and internationally mobile manpower.

Mobility objective: to minimize barriers to inter-provincial mobility of students and teachers...and of graduates wishing to work in other provinces.

Research and economic growth objectives: to support research and development...in order to promote economic growth and to support graduate training for the nation's overall research and development needs.

Citizenship, language and cultural identity objective: to promote...a sense of Canadian citizenship and identity, with particular emphasis on the nation's bilingual nature and to increase access by members of official language minorities to a full range of educational opportunities in their own language.

Accessibility objective: to support equality of opportunity in [student] access to the...system, by reducing geographic, socio-economic and other constraints on participation.

International Relations objective: to promote Canada's international interests in matters relating to education...¹³

The Secretary of State noted that programs in support of these objectives are found in many departments and agencies. He also assessed the effectiveness of the current post-secondary arrangements in attaining the five objectives set out in 1976 when the Prime Minister introduced the EPF proposals. In summary these objectives were to:

- maintain standards of service...in the provincial programs;
- put the federal transfers on a more stable footing;
- give the provinces more flexibility in programming;
- bring about greater equality [in federal support] among the provinces; [and]
- provide for continuing joint policy discussions relating to the health and post-secondary education fields.

The Secretary of State concluded that the financial objectives have been met. However, "...the joint consultation objectives have not been achieved and there is some question about ...success...in the maintenance of standards".¹⁴

The Secretary of State suggested that the current review should consider the appropriateness of a more active approach in the achievement of the country's objectives. He went on to say that visibility, accountability and fiscal imbalances are matters of concern, but more importantly, "...EPF must be examined in the light of the changing needs of the post-secondary institutions. While there would be argument about the extent of an alleged deterioration of post-secondary capacity...there would be little disagreement that the...system will change profoundly over the next...decades as a result of ...adult participation and...projected declines...in the size of the 18 to 24 year old population".¹⁵

In concluding, the Secretary of State noted the need for a co-ordinated federal approach to post-secondary education that would be realistic in the light of a policy of fiscal restraint and consistent with the principles of accountability and visibility. Such a strategy, he said, might include:

1. moving to a more equitable sharing of post-secondary financing among...governments;
2. increasing the percentage of federal expenditures related to specific...objectives and/or to direct federal support of the post-secondary infrastructure, while still maintaining a significant level of indirect infrastructure support via the provinces; [and]