

6.11 The Committee therefore recommends that the government reaffirm the lead role of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in developing international cultural, scientific, and educational policy at the federal level. It further recommends the consolidation of relevant program monies currently dispersed throughout the Department within an expanded International Cultural, Scientific and Educational Branch. Finally, it recommends that the government review the programs of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the relevant programs of other Departments and agencies with a view to consolidating the relevant programs under Foreign Affairs. It also recommends that Canadian diplomats be given the incentives and the tools necessary to become effective salespersons for Canadian culture, science, and education.

Response

The Government agrees that DFAIT should exercise the lead role in further developing international cultural, scientific and educational policy at the federal level. As a first step, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of DFAIT, whose functions were being eliminated by the last Government, has been reinforced and will henceforth report the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for global issues. Programs relevant to these issues will be identified within DFAIT, with a view to increasing their effectiveness as part of the Government's international cultural relations strategy. The incentives and tools necessary for Canadian diplomats will also be examined as part of the strategy.