

Canadian International School
7 Eastern Hospital Road
Causeway Bay
☎ 881-0293

**Canadian Overseas
Secondary School (COSS)**
166 Boundary Street
Kowloon Tong
☎ 336-6273

Delia School of Canada
Kam Shan Mansions
Tai Koo Shing
☎ 884-4165

**Seaker Chan
International School**
71 Boundary Street
☎ 397-2577

**Christian Alliance PC Lau
International College**
2 Fu Ning Street
Kowloon City
☎ 713-3253

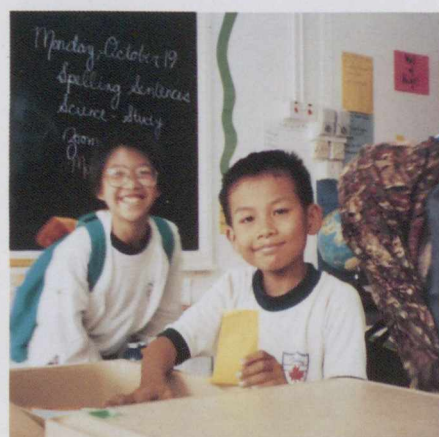
Principal	Annual Costs (HK\$)		Number of students/ Number of teachers	Curriculum	Levels available	Maximum students /class
Ian Robertson	Tuition: \$33,000 \$4,500 books & supplies	Debenture: \$75,000 Corporate \$25,000 Personal	213/20	Documents from Ontario and B.C. Locally-developed curriculum Not certified by provincial authorities	K-6 plans to add one grade a year	25
Alvin Gillies	Tuition: \$38,000 & miscellaneous fees for books & supplies	No Debenture	528/35	Ontario Accredited by provincial authorities	8-OAC	25
C C Lee Lam Tin Chor	Tuition: 1-8 \$25,700 9 \$27,000 10 \$30,200 11 \$30,200 12- OAC \$34,000	No Debenture Miscellaneous fees for books & supplies	900/60	Ontario & Maritime Accredited by provincial authorities	K-OAC	30
James Mistruzzi	Tuition: \$40,000 & miscellaneous fees for books & supplies	No Debenture	180/16 (plus 12 students in Australia curriculum)	Ontario Options are locally developed Accredited by provincial authorities	7-OAC	22
Ernest Janzen	Tuition: 7-9 \$28,000 10-11 \$30,000 & miscellaneous fees for books & supplies	No Debenture	50/7	British Columbia Not accredited by provincial authorities	7-11 Expanding to 12 in 1993-94	15

And with three of them starting up since 1991, the Hong Kong government is seen to be favouring Canadian institutes lately in its encouragement of more international schools. Such a strategy is meant to help the colony keep its doors open to the international business community while offering a highly skilled and cosmopolitan workforce. Schools which fit government specifications are often helped generously with offers that include land at token fees and subsidies based on the number of pupils.

The Canadian International School, which was established in the autumn of 1991 by representatives of the Hong Kong business and Canadian community (including the Chinese-Canadian Association and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce) has a clear growth plan that will allow it to add a grade a year and soon expand into secondary education.

"We're renting our premises now, but we're growing at such a rapid rate that we'll be building a new school by September, 1996," explains principal Robertson. "The Hong Kong government will be giving us a land grant when we're ready."

The school now has about 213 students, and is expecting 300 next year. By that time, says Robertson, they'll need to move some of the older children into temporary new facilities until the new school is built.



Likewise Seaker Chan, which was formerly run under the auspices of COSS, but later established as part of the Chan Education Foundation (local philanthropist Anita Chan heads the Foundation and named the school after her late husband whose English name was "Seaker") is also planning to expand to

incorporate lower grades.

"The Chan Foundation has gone to the extent of drawing up blueprints for a state-of-the-art new building, and the talk is it'll happen sometime in '93-94," says Mistruzzi. "They may put us somewhere else temporarily while they tear down this building to make way for a magnificent new structure."

All signs point to continued rapid growth in the other Canadian schools in Hong Kong as well. When Delia first started in 1987, it offered only grades 10 to 12, and had just 50 students and four teachers. Enrolment has increased nearly 20 fold.

The Christian Alliance PC Lau Memorial International College, another newcomer which started up with 50 students last September, is also expecting to expand.

The school is run by the Chinese Christian and Missionary Alliance, an organization which governs 12 schools in Hong Kong. When it chose to convert one of its Hong Kong schools to an international institute, it contacted its Canadian affiliate to see whether it could send out any administrators.

Number of students/
Number of teachers

Curriculum

Levels available

Maximum
students /class

Principal Ernest Janzen answered the call. "The building is owned by the Church, and they are shifting former students to a new location in Tsuen Wan to free up new classrooms for us," he explains. "We'll have three to five new classrooms next year, allowing us to offer the Canadian curriculum up to grade 12."

But just what does it mean to these Canadian schools to offer the Canadian curriculum? Officially, only three — COSS, Delia and Seaker Chan — have accreditation from provincial education ministries. Both Seaker Chan and COSS offer the Ontario curriculum, while Delia has two streams for Ontario and Maritime instruction.

This official accreditation means that provincial education inspectors must visit the schools each semester to ensure all standards of a Canadian school are being met. Textbooks are approved by provincial education authorities and normally shipped from Canada.

As for the Canadian International School, Robertson explains that since it only offers primary levels at the moment, no certification is necessary, although most

of its books are approved by British Columbia and Ontario education departments. PC Lau's Janzen says in the future they may approach the BC government for certification, but for now, it's "useful, but not necessary."

Besides their strong Canadian content, many of the schools also offer options focusing on the local realities surrounding the students, including Asian geography, history, language, and business, in case students forget where they are studying.

Yet despite all their similarities, school spokesmen are adamant that if there is any competition between them to lure prospective pupils, it is only friendly.

For now, they each seem to have plenty of minds and bodies to keep them busy. Still, the surging demand must reach saturation at some point, a few privately concede. The door is now wide open for other business groups to establish other Canadian schools, including more of the substandard and unofficial "education for profit" and "visa" schools that have in the past, sullied the reputation of legitimate Canadian schools.

Often these schools use references to Canada in their names to entice vulnerable students with offers of easy immigration upon graduation. In addition, as 1997 draws nearer, there are bound to be fewer returnees, since those who emigrate so close to the deadline of Hong Kong's handover to China, are not likely to be returning for only a year or two.



Yet the determination of Hong Kong's present Canadian schools is unshakable. So too is the respect from the thousands of Hong Kong families who continue to enrol their children at some of the most popular and fastest growing schools in the territory. ♦