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ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL COMMISSION

Canadian organizations that support the UNESCO programme and desire a greater Canadian participation in UNESCO activities urged the establishment of a Canada Council which would serve as the Canadian national commission for UNESCO. In response to inquiries on this subject, the Prime Minister of Canada said that the matter had received "... very serious consideration". The question had been discussed with prominent Canadians who might undertake the formation of a Canada Council. The importance of this proposal was fully recognized but unfortunately, it had not yet been possible to make arrangements to create the type of Canada Council which was recommended by the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences. However, the Prime Minister said "... I think I have planted seeds which will germinate....."

Meanwhile, the Department of External Affairs acted as a co-ordinating agency for UNESCO projects in Canada. Shortages of personnel with experience in UNESCO work affected Canadian participation, but the splendid co-operation of voluntary organizations and official agencies enabled Canada to make a useful contribution to the UNESCO programmes.