

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION**Executive Summary****Report on the Inventory of Canadian University Linkages
with Mexico and the United States**

In September 1992, leaders in higher education, business and government from Canada, Mexico and the United States met at the Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin. Participants established a Trilateral Task Force to develop a strategic action plan to enhance trilateral collaboration in higher education. To assist the Task Force, a survey was launched to gather information on existing academic linkages among the three countries. Of the 89 members of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada surveyed, 20 universities provided answers to the questions but many left blanks, indicating that the information was not available.

From the information AUCC already has in its Canadian University International Exchange Agreements Database (CUE), and in its Canadian University Projects in International Development Database (CUPID), which includes official development assistance projects with Mexico, it is clear that this response level only partially describes existing cooperation. CUE indicates that 36 Canadian universities are engaged in a total of 101 agreements (68 with the U.S. and 33 with Mexico). CUPID shows that 18 Canadian universities are involved in 29 international development projects with Mexico. The CUE database does not provide information on the length of exchanges or on the number and gender of the people involved. Finally, CUE and CUPID only provide information on formal agreements and do not take into consideration the much greater flow of informal academic exchanges.

The respondents mentioned that Canadian faculty went to the United States and Mexico mainly for short term research purposes (less than three months). Only a few Mexican faculty/scholars were reported to be conducting research in Canadian institutions (none were teaching). Fields of research collaboration with Mexicans are numerous, with many in the humanities. Half of the participating institutions mentioned that their faculty linkages with the United States have been active for two to four years, and 30% for more than 10 years. Almost 30% of the linkages with Mexico have only been initiated for a period of one year or less. Generally, Canadian students were going to both countries for a period of one academic year. Many had problems finding internships in Mexico or the United States.