

AMONG THE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRING IN THE SOCIAL FIELD IN CANADA IS THE PLANNED CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF MULTICULTURALISM AND CITIZENSHIP. ITS TASK WILL BE TO PROMOTE AN UNDERSTANDING OF VALUES INHERENT IN CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP AND TO ENCOURAGE GENERAL PARTICIPATION IN THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE COUNTRY. IT WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE WITHIN OUR SOCIETY A GREATER AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN RIGHTS, FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND THE VALUES THAT STEM FROM THEM.

MR. PRESIDENT, EDUCATION IS UNESCO'S MOST NOTEWORTHY FIELD OF ENDEAVOUR. IT IS ALSO AN AREA OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO US.

CANADIAN EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES HAVE NOTED AND SUPPORT THE EMPHASIS BEING PLACED BY THE ORGANIZATION THROUGHOUT ALL MAJOR PROGRAM AREAS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTH FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AS THE KEY TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN UNESCO MEMBER COUNTRIES. THIS DIRECTION BY UNESCO REFLECTS THE FACT THAT EDUCATION CONTINUES TO BE THE MAJOR DETERMINANT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FUTURE OF DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ALIKE.

CANADA STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE NECESSITY OF PLACING GREAT EMPHASIS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEMS, PARTICULARLY AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL, IN THE STRUGGLE TO EXPAND LITERACY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT SUPPORT MUST ALSO BE GIVEN TO PURSUING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT, WITHIN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF LIFE-LONG LEARNING, FORMAL SCHOOLING AND ADULT EDUCATION ARE COMPATIBLE AND COMPLEMENTARY APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM OF ILLITERACY. IN THIS SENSE, CANADA SUPPORTS THE INCREASED VISIBILITY THAT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD PROPOSES FOR A DUAL-TRACK STRATEGY IN THE THIRD MEDIUM-TERM PLAN.

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT CREATED A NATIONAL LITERACY SECRETARIAT IN 1987, GIVING IT A FIVE-YEAR BUDGET AND A MANDATE TO REDUCE ILLITERACY IN CANADA. THIS EFFORT ADDS TO THOSE OF CANADA'S PROVINCES. WE FEEL THAT AS SOON AS IT CAN, UNESCO MUST CONSIDER INCREASING THE BUDGETS FOR WOMEN'S LITERACY. WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER WAYS OF ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS WHO HAVE RECENTLY BECOME LITERATE TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN COMMUNITY LIFE.

WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED BY AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE ADDITIONAL EMPHASIS PLACED IN THE THIRD MEDIUM-TERM PLAN ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE EMPHASIS GIVEN TO TRAINING AND TEACHER TRAINING IN ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THE EXPANDING NUMBER OF LINKAGES THAT EXIST BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING IN CANADA AND THEIR SISTER INSTITUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IS INDICATIVE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND LENDS FURTHER SUPPORT TO THE CONCEPT OF UNIVERSALITY AS A FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTERISTIC OF HIGHER EDUCATION.