



Statements and Speeches

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CANADA'S STUDIES PROGRAM ABROAD

A Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, at the Inauguration of the Chair and Centre of Canadian Studies at Edinburgh University, Edinburgh, October 21, 1975.

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That the first chair and centre of Canadian studies in Britain should be in Scotland is in no way surprising. There are the strongest of ethnic and cultural bonds between our country and this region of the United Kingdom.

I myself represent Nova Scotians of varied Scottish ancestry in our Parliament, but there are also: the French-speaking descendants of the Fraser Highlanders in Quebec; the descendants of Scottish settlers of Glengarry in Ontario; the Selkirk immigrants to Manitoba; the Hebrideans who peopled the south of Saskatchewan; the Glaswegians who dug the first coal mines on Vancouver Island -- in all more than two million Canadians who claim Scottish forebears and who form the country's third-largest ethnic community.

Many of the ships that for two centuries carried Scots westward across the Atlantic would bring back not only timber for the great shipyards of the Clyde, salt fish, fine furs and abundant wheat, but Canadian students bound for the Scottish universities -- St. Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and particularly Edinburgh.

Quite apart from its high academic standards and intellectual celebrities among the faculty -- then as now --, there was another circumstance about Edinburgh University that appealed quite naturally to the sons and daughters of Scottish-Canadians: this was what the *Commonwealth Universities Year Book* discreetly refers to as "the economy of its lodgings".
