

- 6.4 The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada give careful consideration to the creation of scholarship and exchange programs that would involve the private sector in an essential way, to allow Canadian students to spend short, though meaningful, periods in centres of higher learning beyond the United States and traditional European destinations, and to allow students from those countries to do the same in Canada. It would be useful if such programs included provisions for keeping track of their alumni.

#### Response

*The Government agrees that Canada's capacity to compete in the global knowledge-based economy will depend, in great part, on the next generation developing the knowledge and skills necessary to deal with other cultures and to operate effectively in foreign environments. To this end, Canada operates the Government of Canada Awards program on a reciprocal basis with Japan, France, Germany, Italy and Mexico. In addition, a Canadian initiative resulted in the introduction of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Program over 30 years ago. Canada continues to offer more awards under this program than most other Commonwealth countries. Canadians are the recipients of over 120 Commonwealth scholarships annually. Last year, the Government also renewed the Canada-China Scholarly Exchange Program under which up to 20 students are exchanged annually. Nonetheless, it is clear more needs to be done.*

*The Government, through close co-operation between the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Department of Human Resources Development, is negotiating with the European Union a program of educational co-operation that will involve both universities and colleges and address some of the barriers to academic mobility. The program should ensure the participation of European countries beyond the traditional academic destinations of Britain and France. Similarly, Canada has been aggressively pursuing North American co-operation in higher education, research and training, and is now negotiating a program with the United States and Mexico which will support student mobility among the three countries. Finally, it is working toward being in a position to participate within the next two years in the program of University Mobility in Asia-Pacific. Apart from positioning Canadians to participate fully in the global economic community, such scholarship programs are also a fundamental means of ensuring that future foreign leaders will be aware of the sophisticated offerings of the Canadian marketplace.*

*The Department has also been attempting to trace alumni of the Government of Canada scholarship program. A few years ago a tracer study was undertaken for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Program. We will analyze the capacity to maintain an ongoing tracking system for foreign scholars studying in Canada under such programs to build strong alumni relationships for the future.*