

The Institute also administers a research grant programme. In the first year, the Institute intends to respond positively to a variety of proposals for funding. Over the longer term, however, the Institute will seek to develop a granting strategy that complements the internal research of the Institute while strengthening the Canadian institutions operating in the field of international peace and security.

Public Programmes

The legislation instructs the Institute to

disseminate information on, and encourage public discussion of, issues of international peace and security.

The Institute has sought the views of Canadians on the direction and scope of its public programmes, and has begun to make funds available to non-governmental organizations and individuals concerned with issues within the Institute's mandate. In the future it will also encourage applicants whose proposals relate to the research interests of the Institute so that the research and public programmes will be mutually supportive in developing public knowledge of peace and security issues. Over the coming months detailed criteria and application procedures will be developed for both programmes.

The Institute will encourage debate in Canada through a publishing programme designed to increase public knowledge and understanding of peace and security issues. A series of short papers written for the non-expert, interested public will provide background information on specific topics, and a newsletter will bring Canadians up-to-date on recent events and provide some analysis of them. Conferences, seminars and workshops will bring people together with a view to exchanging ideas, expanding knowledge, and disseminating the results widely.

Information Systems

The Act empowers the Institute to

establish . . . a library and . . . data centre . . . for research and other activities relevant to its purpose and cooperate with all such existing libraries and facilities.

The Institute has started to build a collection of books, journals and materials which will eventually comprise a small in-house resource centre. It has greatly benefitted from the wealth of expertise which exists in the libraries and government institutions in the National Capital Region. A survey to assess the needs and capabilities of libraries and specialized institutes across the country will be undertaken. The results will help the Institute make the most effective use of its information resources.

Over the longer term, the Institute may consider developing an internationally accepted index of terms on peace and security. Such an index would facilitate the creation of an electronic data base designed to respond promptly to both research and educational needs in Canada and, ultimately, in other countries. It might also offer an opportunity for continuing cooperation with international institutions in the field of peace and security.

The Translation of Mandate Into Programmes

The process of converting the Institute's mandate into concrete programmes and giving these shape and direction will continue over the coming months. While remaining responsive to public demands and expectations it will also begin to set its own agenda and priorities.

The Institute's goal is to establish a reputation as a centre for research and for the discussion and dissemination of views from a wide spectrum of sources, but it cannot simply be a passive facilitator of dialogue and compromise. Its mandate also requires it to "propose" policies and ideas, although it will not as a rule advocate single solutions to current issues. Rather it is hoped that the creation and maintenance of high standards of investigation and the exploration of a variety of ideas can provide the best basis for informed debate.