

in line with the 1976 First Ministers' commitment, the responsible federal minister or ministers proceed on an urgent basis to consult with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada on matters of concern to both orders of government in the field of higher education.

In pressing for a forum for discussion of post-secondary matters, many representatives of higher education institutions, faculty and students also argued strongly for their involvement in intergovernmental discussions affecting them. It seems unlikely that they could be included in meetings between the CMEC and the Secretary of State. However, we believe that the expertise of these groups could be used to advantage. One approach might be for provincial and federal ministers to commission studies and research to be carried out by individuals or associations from the post-secondary sector. An interesting suggestion on the role of universities in support of intergovernmental discussion emerges from Peter Leslie's study. He believes

... it would be salutary if the universities of Canada formulated and endorsed a statement of what they consider to be Canadian purposes in higher education, distinct from but complementary to the purposes of each province. Where appropriate, they should express their support for federal action to realize these purposes. It should be emphasized that in some cases, interprovincial co-operation may be simpler and more effective than federal action in responding to needs that transcend the borders of particular provinces... If they [the universities] have made it clear what they consider to be the provincial government's prerogatives in the field, a call for federal action to complement and assist provincial policies should provide a valuable basis for discussion among universities and governments, both federal and provincial.¹⁸

We suggest that early attention should be given to the definition of purposes in post-secondary education that are of concern to all governments. In this connection, we would see priority consideration being given to the need for more highly-qualified manpower in the 1980s, and the confirmation of existing commitments to student mobility and equality of access to post-secondary education for Canadians. Similarly, it is desirable, in our view, to ensure reasonable access to Canadian higher education for foreign students.

The extent of student mobility today is illustrated by Table V-2 which displays the 'home residence' of out-of-province university students in 1979-80. For most provinces the percentage of non-resident Canadian students ranges around seven to eight per cent of full-time university enrolment. The provinces carrying the heavy loads in this regard are Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, at approximately 25 per cent.

We wish to emphasize that we have been impressed by the extent to which the objectives of mobility and equality of access are now being met in Canadian post-secondary education. Our concern is the negative consequences that could flow from continuing financial constraint in the years ahead.

Higher fees for foreign students recently have been instituted in a number of provinces. We are concerned that such a practice could have an adverse effect on Canada's international objectives, such as assisting developing countries through providing education and training for their citizens. It is also in the interests of long-term Canadian economic, political and social development, both at home and abroad, to ensure that foreign students continue to be welcomed in Canada for educational purposes. This federal objective could be of sufficient importance to warrant additional support for foreign students under certain circumstances.

As noted above, a number of witnesses argued for better internal co-ordination of federal activities affecting post-secondary education. As indicated in Table V-1, several federal agencies have large expenditure programs involving post-secondary institutions. The main examples are the sponsored research programs of the granting councils and a few large departments, and manpower training purchases by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. It seems reasonable that such activities should be conducted within a framework of an overall view of the Canadian purposes to be served by higher education. Moreover, if the consultations with the CMEC proposed above become an ongoing reality, it will be essential to ensure an internally consistent approach from the federal side. *The Task Force therefore recommends that*