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CANADIAN STUDIES IN THE NETHERLANDS : AN INTERIM REPORT

1. Introduction

This report is an account of the development of Canadian studies in The Netherlands as it occurred between the beginning of the year 1983 and the fall of 1986. The report is not only restricted in time, there is also a restriction in scope : the report focusses on the social sciences and the humanities, i.e. on those academic disciplines in which 'Canadian content' can be made manifest in a most explicit way.

2. Paving the way

Though there is a longstanding record of exchanges of scholarships between Canada and the Netherlands, the Dutch academe over the years hardly responded to efforts of the Canadian counterpart to promote Canadian studies in The Netherlands. Illustrative of this lack of response is the fact that before the academic year 1984/1985 no course with full Canadian Content was being taught at any Dutch academic institution. This is not to say that scholars in The Netherlands were totally disinterested in 'things Canadian'. On the contrary. Several lecture tours by