
The development of innovative curricular materials relevant to the cultural heritage of Eskimo, Indian and Métis pupils has been one of the outstanding achievements in the Northwest Territories. These elementary materials have been adapted to meet the need of the native peoples. With the co-operation of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, a valuable project involving the collecting of stories and legends of the Dogrib people has begun. With the assistance of the Northern Co-ordination and Research Centre, a combined Dogrib grammar and dictionary is being produced. Increased use of native languages has had instructional, psychological and cultural benefits.

PART III

Federal Departments and Agencies

While education is primarily a responsibility of the provinces, the Federal Government is directly responsible for the education of Indians throughout Canada, inmates of federal prisons, and members of the Armed Forces and their children on military bases at home or overseas. In addition, some federal departments concerned with problems of national defence, manpower, social welfare and vocational training have become involved directly or indirectly in certain education services or have provided education facilities for specified groups. The following incomplete list includes only those departments most immediately concerned:

Department of External Affairs

The Cultural Affairs Division performs a liaison function in matters concerning education with international implications. Thus it is through this Division that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) maintain their official links with the Federal Government. The same may be said for liaison between Canada and the International Bureau of Education. Similarly, Canada's participation in the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee and the regular Commonwealth Education Conference is organized by the same Division within the Department. As a function of its responsibility for the conduct of Canada's external relations, the Department of External Affairs has been charged with the negotiation and implementation of cultural agreements with foreign countries, which, among other things, provide for academic and scientific exchanges. The Department discharges these functions in close consultation with the Council of Ministers of Education. The Academic Relations Division promotes close relations between the Department and the universities in the area of international affairs.