

# PRESS RELEASE



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## SHASTRI INDO-CANADIAN INSTITUTE

In furtherance of the existing friendly relations between India and Canada, marked by warm cordiality and fruitful cooperation in diverse fields of development, the Governments of India and Canada are pleased to announce the establishment of a Canadian Institute of Indian Studies and named "The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute" in honour of the memory of the late Prime Minister of India, Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Primarily, the object of the Institute will be to promote and foster growth of research in Indian studies in Canadian universities and thereby contribute to greater understanding of Indian life and culture among the academic community of Canada and through it in that country as a whole. For that purpose, the Institute will promote programs of studies and research in India in the fields of humanities and social sciences by qualified scholars selected from Canadian universities and colleges. The Institute will also support other academic programs and activities relating to India and encourage Canadian universities and colleges to create chairs for different aspects of Indian studies. And, the Institute will acquire library materials relating to India for distribution among the founding members of the Institute who are McGill University, the National Library of Canada, and the Universities of British Columbia and Toronto.

The programs and the activities of the Institute are, however, intended to be of mutual benefit to both concerned countries. The programs of research

and study in India will be geared as far as practicable, to the scholastic needs of the country. And, the fruits of research and study by selected Canadian scholars in India will be made available to Indian scholars. For this purpose, the Institute will present to the Government of India a copy of every thesis or research study prepared by the research scholars and fellows of the Institute.

The Institute has been incorporated in Ottawa under the Canadian Corporations Act and has its head office at McGill University, Montreal. It may establish, with the approval of the Government of India or Government of Canada one or more branch offices in India or Canada respectively. Membership will be open to all Canadian universities and colleges in accordance with the Constitution of the Institute. The property and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by a board of three to nine Directors. The Indian High Commission in Canada may appoint one Director who may attend and vote at all board meetings and at all general meetings of the corporation and receive notice thereof.

There will be two advisory councils, one in India and the other in Canada. The Indian advisory council will consist of a representative of the Canadian High Commission in India and four to eight Indian citizens nominated by the Indian Ministry of Education. The Chairman of the council will be an Indian. The Canadian advisory council will consist of one representative of the Indian High Commission in Canada and five to nine Canadian citizens.

The functions of the two advisory councils will be generally to advise the board on all matters affecting the administration of the Institute in India and Canada respectively. The Indian council will, in addition, advise on suitable areas of research in Indian studies.

The Indian costs of the Institute will be met out of the fund of

counterpart Rupees accruing from Canadian food and commodity aid to India. The expenditure on the maintenance of the Institute in India is estimated to be Rupees 30 Lakhs during the first three years.

The work of the Institute will be reviewed before the end of the third year. The Governments of India and Canada hope that the work of the Institute will justify its continuation and that the Institute will constitute an important milestone in Indo-Canadian cooperation.