



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No:
No.: 53

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: JULY 17, 1979

CANADA/CHINA STUDENT PLACEMENT PROGRAMME

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald, announced today that an agreement to further the development of educational exchanges and cooperation between Canada and the People's Republic of China (PRC) was concluded in Peking on June 7, 1979. The Canadian delegation at the signature of the agreement consisted of federal and provincial representatives.

This agreement marks the completion of intensive discussions that were initiated in August 1978 with the announcement by the PRC of their interest in sending a considerable number of students in the scientific and technological fields to this country. It is part of a world-wide Chinese programme to send students overseas.

A main feature of the agreement is the establishment of a special programme to facilitate the placement of approximately 100 Chinese scholars in Canadian institutions in 1979. The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, in concert with provincial education authorities and other provincial or federal agencies, and the National Research Council will assist in the placement, language evaluation orientation and liaison with the academic community for this programme.

The Chinese government, through its embassy in Ottawa, will be responsible for the accommodation, living, travel, personal books and equipment, health insurance and supplementary language training costs, as well as for such fees as a province or university or other institution requires of a person of scholar status. Under the terms of this special programme, scholar means a person pursuing research or studies for purposes other than attaining a university degree in Canada. The Chinese authorities will also be responsible for direct research costs except where other individual arrangements may be applicable.

In addition to the special scholar programme, it was agreed that China could place undergraduates and postgraduates in Canadian institutions through other arrangements acceptable to both countries.

The Chinese government agreed to promote accessibility for Canadian scholars and students to its institutions of higher learning by facilitating travel in China, access to research materials and attendance at regular courses. Discussions will be held between the Chinese Ministry of Education and the Canadian Embassy in Peking to promote such access for Canadian students, postgraduates, and university professors, including specialists in social sciences, humanities and science and technology.

As a further sign of their interest in promoting friendship and understanding between the two countries through education, Canada and the People's Republic of China have agreed to encourage the establishment of relations between their respective universities and colleges.