



Council of Ministers of Education, Canada
Conseil des ministres de l'Éducation (Canada)

71ST SESSION OF THE CERI GOVERNING BOARD

CANADIAN REPORT

Paris, France
October 27–28, 2004

Governing Board member

Ms. Maria David-Evans
Deputy Minister
Alberta Learning
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Observers

Mr. George Molloy
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Ms. Satya Brink
Director, Policy Research
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Ms. Nadia Bourely
Second Secretary
Permanent Delegation of Canada to the OECD

1. A detailed record of discussion will be prepared by the OECD Secretariat and will be available upon request from the CMEC Secretariat. Documentation referred to in this report is also available from the CMEC Secretariat.
2. Dr. Gábor Halász (Hungary) was named Chair of the CERI Governing Board and the representative to the board from Canada, Maria David-Evans, was named to the Executive Committee joining Richard Bartholomew, Masayuki Inoue, Kyung-Jae Park, and Stefan C. Wolter.
3. Following the approval of the agenda and of the *Summary Record of the 70th Session* [EDU/CERI/CD/M(2004)1], the Director, Barry McGaw, presented his oral report on current activities of the OECD in general and on specific activities of relevance to the work of CERI. Among the topics touched upon were the following:
 - The United States has contributed US\$400,000 over five years to support CERI and the Programme on Educational Building (PEB) work on special-needs students.
 - A ministerial colloquium on business–education partnership is planned for January 24 and 25, 2005, in Dublin.
 - An OECD/National Science Foundation Conference on new information technologies and education will be held in Washington, DC, January 10–11, 2005.
 - A final drafting meeting for the UNESCO/OECD guidelines on quality provisions in cross-border higher education will be held January 17–18, 2005.
 - An informal meeting of ministers of education is scheduled for February 17–18, 2005, in St-Gallen, Switzerland, to discuss the use of school-level data in national reporting.
 - The OECD/Japan Seminar, to be held June 23–24, 2005, will focus on PISA 2003.
 - Plans are under way for a Canada/OECD conference on e-learning, June 26–28, 2005, in Calgary, Alberta.
 - The next meeting of Education Chief Executives is scheduled for September 22–23, 2005.
 - A (Global) Forum on Education is planned for mid-November 2005 in Chile as part of the work with non-member economies.
 - The Director announced that he will leave his post on December 31, 2005.
4. Barry McGaw and Tom Schuller presented a report on recent developments pertaining to the programme of work and budget for 2005–06 [EDU/CERI/CD(2004)7], along with a report on grants and voluntary contributions received [EDU/CERI/CD/RD(2004)8].

5. Since the meeting, the OECD Secretariat has distributed a document entitled the *CERI Budget Envelope* [EDU/CERI/CD/(2004)15] — see copy attached. The OECD Secretariat has been informed that Canadian authorities are prepared to support Option 1 as outlined in the document. Canadian authorities are therefore prepared, FOR THIS YEAR ONLY, to increase Canada's assessed contribution in an amount that corresponds to the average increase of Part 1 envelope, (i.e., 2.5%) and to support the procedure to have CERI use up front, at the start of the fiscal year 2005, resources in the amount of 85,000 EUR from anticipated publication revenues.
6. Tom Schuller introduced the agenda item pertaining to *Social Outcomes of Learning* [EDU/CERI/CD(2004)8]. The work being proposed would be fused with the indicator development work of Network B. The outcome of discussion on this item will be provided to the November 8–9, 2004, Network B meeting. It was noted that participating country authorities will need to provide approximate \$CD23,000 – \$CD31,000 to support the activity.
7. Maria David-Evans spoke in support of this project as did France, Mexico, United Kingdom, Australia, Netherlands, Japan, and New Zealand. It will now be necessary to canvass provincial/territorial education authorities as well as Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to determine the level of interest and financial support for Canadian participation.
8. Janet Looney introduced the item on *What Works in Innovation and Education: Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Throughout the Lifespan* [EDU/CERI/CD(2004)9]. The proposal project will focus on adult learning and assessment priorities. It was noted that a small group of international experts will be convened to further define research questions and outline the study methodology. Country authorities will be asked to express interest in participating in this activity early in 2005.
9. Canada's representative expressed interest in the project as the initiatives closely reflected priority areas identified by CMEC. Consultation with Canadian authorities is required to determine level of interest and availability of resources.
10. Maria David-Evans undertook to provide the OECD Secretariat with information related to the Test of Workplace Essential Skills (TOWES) developed by Bow Valley College.
11. Kurt Larsen and Keiko Momii introduced the item *Draft UNESCO/OECD Guidelines on Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education* [EDU/EC/CERI(2004)3]. This subject generated a lively discussion from which the following points emerged:

- It is critical that the guidelines be “non-bending” and that some method be determined to monitor their effectiveness/use.
 - It is important to separate the information tool (portal) from the guidelines.
 - There is a need to stay focused on higher education institutions and not broaden the definition at this time to include all of tertiary education.
 - There will be a third drafting meeting in Paris, January 17–18, 2005.
 - The guidelines will return to the Education Committee for approval in April 2005, and they will go to the UNESCO General Conference and to the OECD Council in October 2005 for adoption.
12. Maria David-Evans indicated that Canadian education authorities support the continuation of this work, and she offered the services of the CMEC’s Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials in the proposed pilot project. She also linked the importance of this work with CMEC’s interest in the issue of postsecondary capacity.
13. Members were treated to a lively presentation by Bruno della Chiesa on *Learning Sciences and Brain Research* [EDU/CERI/CD(2004)12/REV1]. The presentation provided a summary of key developments in the work to date, with special emphasis on the project’s Web site [www.oecd.org/edu/brain].
14. Kurt Larsen introduced the *Examiners’ Report on Denmark: National Review of Educational Research and Development* [EDU/CERI/CD(2004)10] and made reference to the background report prepared by the Danish authorities [EDU/CERI/CD/RD(2004)6]. The discussion was lead by Mats Ekholm of the Swedish Ministry of Education and Elaine El-Khawas of George Washington University of the United States.
15. Bernard Hugonnier spoke to the item on *OECD Outreach Strategy* [EDU/CERI/CD(2004)13] and reminded members that the OECD Council, at the July 2004 meeting, adopted a new resolution pertaining to the participation of non-members in the subsidiary bodies of the organization. The most significant innovation is to ask each committee to develop a proactive strategy that defines the role and participation of non-members in the committee’s work. In this respect, the OECD Secretariat was seeking member support for (i) inviting UNESCO and the World Bank to join the work of CERI and (ii) extending current observer status to Chile and Israel.
16. There was agreement on the later suggestions, but it is not clear what decision was reached regarding the participation of UNESCO and of the World Bank. Canada’s representative, like a number of other members, questioned what criteria are used to determine which organizations would be invited.

17. The following dates of future meetings were noted:

- April 4–5 (a.m.), 2005 — CERI Governing Board
- April 5 (p.m.), 2005 — Joint Meeting of CERI Governing Board and Education Committee
- April 6–7, 2005 — Education Committee
- September 22–23, 2005 — Meeting of Chief Executives – Education Committee
- November 7–8, 2005 — Education Committee
- November 9 (a.m.), 2005 — Joint Meeting of CERI Governing Board and Education Committee
- November 9 (p.m.)–November 10, 2005 — CERI Governing Board
- March 27–28 (a.m.), 2006 — CERI Governing Board
- March 28 (p.m.), 2006 — Joint Meeting of CERI Governing Board and Education Committee
- March 29–30, 2006 — Education Committee
- June 2006 (to be confirmed) — Education Committee at Ministerial Level