



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

**74th SESSION OF THE
OECD EDUCATION COMMITTEE
REPORT OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION**

Paris, France
October 25–26, 2004

Mr. Pierre Lucier, Head of Delegation
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education of Quebec, Canada

Mr. George Molloy
Director, International Programs and Special
Projects
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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 the discussions 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. The agenda and the Summary Record of the 73rd Session were adopted as presented. The Head of the Canadian Delegation, Pierre Lucier, was elected to the Education Committee Bureau. The other members are as follows: John Dennehy (Ireland), Chair; Jan Koucky (Czech Republic); Nadine Prost (France); Torben Kornbech Rasmussen (Denmark); Ki-Sung Lee (Korea).
3. The Director, Barry McGaw, presented an oral report on recent developments at OECD. Of particular note were the following:
 - The USA has contributed US\$400,000 over 5 years to support CERI and the Programme on Education Building (PEB) work on special-needs students.
 - The final comparative report on the thematic review on adult learning has been circulated to the Education Committee (Ed Com) and the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC) for comment by mid-November. The final conference will be held in Malmö, Sweden, March 10–11, 2005.
 - A (Global) Forum on Education is planned for Chile in mid-November 2005 as part of the work with Non-Member Economies.
 - A new date is being sought for the Ministerial Colloquium on business-education partnership, originally scheduled for December 13 and 14, 2004, in Dublin.
 - 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 next meeting of Education Chief Executive's is scheduled for September 22–23, 2005.
 - The Director announced that he will leave his post on December 31, 2005.
4. The Revised Programme of Work and Budget [EDU/EC(2004)17] was reviewed and discussed by the committee. Mr. Lucier joined other members in complimenting the Secretariat on its efforts to consolidate the input received from the committee and expressed support for the revisions to the 2005–06 Programme of Work and Budget.
5. Gregory Wurzburg of the Secretariat presented a paper on lessons learned from the *Pilot Review Methodology for Identifying Policy Lessons from PISA* [EDU/EC(2004)17/ANN2]. There was general agreement with the proposal to organize a meeting of countries interested in discussing further the use of peer review methods to identify the policy implications of PISA following the December release of PISA 2003. Canada's representative to the PISA Governing Board will be consulted regarding follow-up.
6. Simon Fields provided a report on the recent conference on school bullying sponsored by the Norwegian Ministry of Education [EDU/EC(2004)17/ANN3 and EDU/EC/RD(2004)9]. Canadian education authorities will be consulted as to whether they wish to become involved in the proposed International Network on School Bullying and Violence.

7. 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 main points emerged:
 - It is critical that the guidelines be “non-bending” and that some method be determined to monitor their effectiveness/use.
 - Separate the information tool (portal) from the guidelines.
 - Stay focused on higher education institutions and do 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.
8. Pierre Lucier indicated that Canadian education authorities support the continuation of this work, and he offered the services of the CMEC’s Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials in the proposed pilot project.
9. Pierre Lucier along with Wendy Jarvie of Australia acted as the lead questioners in addressing the follow-up to the *Review of Lifelong Learning in Norway* [EDU/EC(2004)25] and [EDU/EC/RD(2004)10]. Mr. Lucier focused on issues relating to tertiary education and leadership and governance, while Ms. Jarvie raised questions pertaining to financial issues and to equity issues. The delegation from Norway was led by the Minister for Education and Research, Mrs. Kristin Clemet.
10. John Bennett and Collette Taylor introduced the item *Thematic Review of Early Childhood Education and Care Policy* [EDU/EC(2004)21]. Pierre Lucier, Head of the Canadian Delegation, spoke to Canada’s participation in the project. He noted that four provincial jurisdictions and the Government of Canada contributed to the review. He further noted that Canadian authorities appreciated the variety of approaches reflected in the report.
11. The OECD report was well received by members, and Mexico and Austria spoke to the need for further OECD work in this field.
12. Phillip McKenzie and Paulo Santiago presented a summary of the main findings of the draft report, *Teachers Matter: Attracting, Developing, and Retaining Effective Teachers* [EDU/EC(2004)26]. The draft report has been circulated for comment, and there will be an international conference (November 18–19, 2004) in the Netherlands to discuss the report.
13. Pierre Lucier observed that Canadian education authorities will find the report of considerable value. He noted that the Province of Quebec participated in the project and that Quebec’s involvement included the collaboration of the government, teacher unions, and the universities.
14. The Deputy Director, Bernard Hugonnier, and Ian Whitman presented a report on a review undertaken on financing and quality assurance reforms in higher education in the People’s

Republic of China [EDU/EC/NME(2004)1]. The review, which took place in the context of ongoing reforms to the higher education system and a continuing and rapid growth of participation, provides policy recommendations on the expansion of the quality management systems, the revision of the tuition loan system, and the development of a management information system.

15. Wilfred Iwan of the California Institute of Technology and Richard Yelland of the Programme on Educational Building (PEB) presented a draft OECD recommendation on the Earthquake Safety in Schools [EDU/EC(2004)22]. The Committee was informed that the recommendations have been prepared by a group of experts and endorsed by the PEB Governing Board. The recommendations do not impose specific norms on any country, nor do they mandate specific courses of action. Once adopted, however, the recommendations represent a policy commitment by the government of OECD countries. The recommendations will be shared with education authorities in Canada.
16. A proposal regarding cooperation with the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) was presented by Bernard Hugonnier [EDU/EC(2004)16]. From the content of the document and the tone of the presentation, Mr. Hugonnier and the Secretariat seem to be promoting an expansion of the committee's engagement with BIAC and TUAC.
17. There was a considerable mix of reactions to the proposal. Pierre Lucier spoke in support of continuing the Committee's current relationship with BIAC and TUAC and, therefore, not expanding engagement at this time. This matter will be returned to the Committee for further discussions at the next meeting.
18. Bernard Hugonnier introduced the item *Outreach Strategy for Education* [EDU/EC(2004)24] which outlined ways in which the Education Committee could develop a new outreach strategy defining the role and participation of non-Members in the work of the Committee.
19. The Head of the Canadian Delegation supported the renewal of observer status to current observers (Chile, Estonia, Israel, the Russian Federation, and Slovenia).
20. The Secretariat will return to the Committee with criteria and strategies for engaging with bodies such as UNESCO and the World Bank.

21. 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 Education Chief Executives
- 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.