



COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, CANADA

In Canada, education is the responsibility of each province and territory. Because ministers of education needed a forum in which to discuss issues of mutual concern, they established the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) in 1967. CMEC is the national voice for education in Canada. It is the mechanism through which ministers consult and act on matters of mutual interest, and the instrument through which they consult and cooperate with national education organizations and the federal government. CMEC also represents the education interests of the provinces and territories internationally.

To promote the study and use of Canada's official languages, CMEC, in cooperation with the provinces and territories, administers the Official-Language Monitor Program and the Summer Language Bursary Program. CMEC also operates the Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC), which maintains a database on professional and educational organizations and their credential assessment procedures.

CMEC initiatives are divided into two categories: pan-Canadian strategy activities, in which all jurisdictions participate, and consortium activities, which provinces and territories choose to participate in and fund, according to their interests.

The basic pan-Canadian strategy includes the following initiatives:

- assessing the performance of 13- and 16-year-old students in mathematics, reading and writing, and science
- collecting statistical information on the performance of our education systems
- fostering an exchange of information among provinces and territories on a variety of subjects including technology, open learning, copyright, and education research and development
- producing periodic reports on various aspects of education in Canada
- fostering the mobility of postsecondary students through credit transfer agreements among provinces and territories

Some provinces and territories have created consortiums, including those charged with the following projects:

- developing a process to set postsecondary expectations
- cooperating on curriculum initiatives

The activities of CMEC are coordinated by a secretariat located in Toronto. For additional information on CMEC's activities, please contact Secretariat staff at the following address:

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April 1998