

WELCOME TO THE THIRD NATIONAL FORUM ON EDUCATION

CMEC has responded to the priorities identified at the last forum, held in Edmonton in May 1996, through a number of important projects and activities. Ministers reconfirmed the 1993 *Victoria Declaration* as a statement of shared values and beliefs concerning education in the provinces and territories. CMEC has enhanced the information flow on education initiatives through such activities as expansion of its Web site, meetings between the CMEC Chair and major national partners, and the publication of the *Report on Education in Canada, 1998*.

As well, we have begun the second cycle of the School Achievement Indicators Program and, in October 1997, we released the *Common Framework of Science Learning Outcomes, K-12*. At the postsecondary level, we have increased our activity and, in particular, have begun developing a set of generic expectations for postsecondary education. CMEC also continues to play a vital role in the official languages in education and in education-related international activities.

This list is not exhaustive, but it illustrates the type of cooperative work that is being done at the pan-Canadian level to complement and add value to the work of the provinces and territories. Education everywhere in Canada is richer as a result of our efforts.

The forum in St. John's marks the third time that CMEC has invited its partners to a major gathering to discuss education issues and to develop a common understanding of those issues. These events are extremely useful in identifying areas where collaborative work in education would be beneficial.

But the forums are important for another reason, as well. They provide an opportunity for those involved in education, directly and indirectly, to come together to discuss common concerns and to help develop their networks, in this way fostering a sense of community, of belonging to a common cause.

On behalf of the members of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, I am very pleased to welcome you to the Third National Forum on Education. Please accept our best wishes for successful discussions in St. John's that will enhance the quality of teaching and learning everywhere in Canada.



Paul Ramsey
Chair of CMEC
Minister of Education for
British Columbia