



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CANADIAN STUDIES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL D'ÉTUDES CANADIENNES**

250 City Centre, S-303, Ottawa, Canada K1R 6K7 ☎ (613) 789-7834 📠 (613) 789-7830
<http://www.iccs-ciec.ca>

30 YEARS
ANS

Patron/Président d'honneur
His Excellency the Right
Honourable/
Son Excellence le très honorable

David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M. C.D.
Governor General of Canada/
Gouverneur général du Canada

**Executive Committee/
Comité exécutif**

President/Président
Patrick James
United States/États-Unis

Past President/Président sortant
Klaus-Dieter Ertler
Austria/Autriche

Treasurer/Trésorier
Stewart Gill
Australia/Australie

Secretary/Secrétaire
Susan Hodgett
United Kingdom/Royaume-Uni

**The ICCS has associations in the
following countries/
Le CIEC a des associations dans
les pays suivants:**

Argentina/Argentine
Australia/Australie
Belgium/Belgique
Brazil/Brésil
Canada
Central European Countries/
Pays de l'Europe centrale
Chile/Chili
China/Chine
Cuba
France
German-Speaking Countries/
Pays de langue allemande
India/Inde
Ireland/Irlande
Israel/Israël
Italy/Italie
Japan/Japon
Korea/Corée
Mexico/Mexique
New Zealand/Nouvelle-Zélande
Nordic Countries/ Pays nordiques
Paraguay
Poland/Pologne
Spain/Espagne
The Netherlands/Pays-Bas
Russia/Russie
United Kingdom/Royaume-Uni
United States/États-Unis
Venezuela

May 2, 2012

Roxanne Dubé
Director General
Geographic Strategy and Services Bureau (GLD)
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
Ottawa, ON

Dear Roxanne,

It is with great sadness and regret that we receive your letter dated April 30, 2012 with the terrible news regarding the decision of the Canadian Government to abolish, after 41 years of existence, such a successful and cost effective program: the Understanding Canada – Canadian Studies.

As you can imagine, it is very difficult for us to understand and accept this decision without any justification or written explanation as to why it was necessary to abolish completely a program that was built by so many people over such a long period of time and which benefited Canada as a whole in many ways.

We at ICCS have worked very hard and had demonstrated that this program has huge benefits for Canada such as an enormous international visibility outside of Canada; a return on investment of more than \$200 million in programming, of which \$70 million is spent directly in Canada; a contribution in recruiting international students and exchanges to and from Canada; an opportunity for DFAIT to reassess the support of its policy and business orientated experts within the global network of the ICCS, etc.

The termination of this program does not only involve DFAIT but also many other initiatives for funding support from other Canadian sources that will come to an end. It will force cancellation of teaching, research and publication about Canada and major reduction in membership for Associations, cancellation of Canadian Studies activities and closure of centres around the world.

We would appreciate that you give us more information on the steps taken by the Department that led to this decision despite all the favourable information available during the policy review made by DFAIT.

Sincerely,

ctd/v-] tArá

Patrick James,
President of ICCS