



April 30 2012

Dr. Patrick James
President
International Council for Canadian Studies
250 City Centre S-303
Ottawa, ON
K1R 6K7

Dear Sir:

Further to the review of all its programs, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) has decided to reduce some and abolish others. One of the programs affected is "Understanding Canada", perhaps better known as "Canadian Studies". This program is abolished.

Please note that the program of the Foundation for Educational Exchange Between Canada and the United States of America (Fulbright Program), which was under the responsibility of the Understanding Canada unit, is not affected by this decision. This program remains under the responsibility of the International Education and Youth Division.

Rest assured that during all the process that led to that decision, the excellent work of the partners of Understanding Canada, including ICCS, was never questioned. The long-time partnership between DFAIT and the International Council for Canadian Studies has been most fruitful and we certainly hope that it will continue despite the absence of funding. To this effect, a message has already been sent to all our missions abroad where there are Canadian Studies to ensure that they will continue to work with our Canadianists partners within the limits of their means.

We will also contact Ms. Cristina Frias, Executive Director of the ICCS, to discuss the termination of the contract to manage some components of the program on behalf of DFAIT.

In order to give more information to your membership, Mr. Jean Labrie, Deputy Director of the International Education and Youth Division, as well as responsible for this program, will participate in the Annual General Meeting of the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS), which DFAIT is still offering to host in the Lester B. Pearson Building on May 25-26, 2012.

As a result of an internal reorganization of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, I wish to also inform you that the international education sector has been transferred to another bureau, under the stewardship of Peter MacArthur.

I wish your organisation and yourself the best of success despite this sad news.

Yours sincerely

Roxanne Dubé
Director General
Geographic Strategy and Services Bureau (GLD)