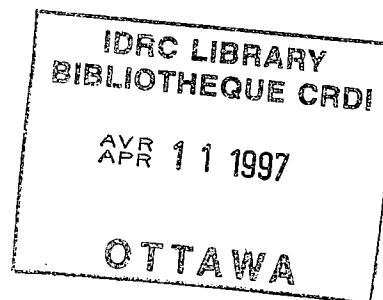


ARCSER

ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

1995 - 1996



I INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Section 72 of the Access to Information Act and Section 72 of the Privacy Act, the International Development Research Centre is pleased to submit its annual report to Parliament covering the period from April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996.

The report is brief since only two requests for information were received during the reporting period under the provisions of the Access to Information Act and no requests were received under the Privacy Act.

II INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is a public corporation created in 1970 by the Parliament of Canada and directed by an international board of governors.

Through financial support to researchers in universities, government, business and non-profit organizations, IDRC invests in scientific knowledge and technology to help improve quality of life in areas of human health, economic and social well-being, food and nutrition, the environment and natural resources, and information and communications.

The Centre fully supports and endorses the principles expressed in the Access to Information and Privacy Acts.

III ATIP ACTIVITIES

The Access to Information and Privacy Coordinator, who has other functions, reports directly to the President on ATIP matters. Given that only two informal requests were received under the Access to Information Act and no formal requests under the Privacy Act this past year, the ATIP Coordinator has spent a limited amount of time on ATIP matters, responding to general informational requests, carrying out administrative tasks and attending training courses and conferences on the Access to Information and Privacy Acts.

Entries in the 1995-1996 InfoSource were reviewed and modified in accordance with the standard format established by the Treasury Board Secretariat.

In addition, a response to the questionnaire on Personal Information Sharing by Government Institutions was provided.

IV REPORT ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

(a) Statistical Report

The International Development Research Centre received two informal requests for information under the Access to Information Act during the period April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996.

The annual statistical report was provided to Treasury Board as required under Part IV of the Interim Policy Guide (see Annex B).

b) Access Activities

As the Centre receives few requests under the Access to Information Act, the Coordinator spends less than 10% of her time on ATIP matters.

In addition to processing requests and carrying out the administrative tasks associated with ATIP matters, the Coordinator responds to queries from employees on the Access and Privacy legislation. A reading room, as required under Section 71 of the Act, is provided in the IDRC Library.

The Centre is not linked to the CAIR (Coordination of Access to Information Requests) system, because it receives so few requests, however it does follow the procedures established for manual input.

V REPORT ON PRIVACY

(a) Statistical Report

No formal requests for information under the Privacy Act were received during the reporting period, April 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995. The annual statistical report is contained in Annex C.

(b) Privacy Activities

As mentioned earlier, the ATIP Coordinator's position is not staffed full-time.

As ATIP Coordinator, her responsibilities include developing policies, promoting awareness and monitoring compliance with the Privacy Act.