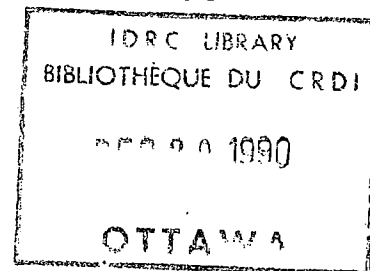


ARCSER



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE



ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

1989 - 1990

## 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, 1989 to March 31, 1990.

The report is necessarily brief since only three 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) was created by an Act of Parliament in 1970 in response to the absence of indigenous scientific competence within developing countries and to the need for those countries to be able to apply science and technology to their specific problems.

Through support for research, IDRC assists developing countries in creating their own long-term solutions to pressing development problems. Support is given directly to Third World institutions whose research focuses primarily on meeting the basic needs of the population and overcoming the problems of poverty. Research

is undertaken by Third World recipients independently or, occasionally, in collaboration with Canadian partners.

The principles guiding IDRC-supported research are that projects must be targeted to benefit the poor. Support is usually provided to applied rather than basic research. Projects are designed to maximize the use of local materials and to strengthen human and institutional capacity. Since its creation in 1970, the Centre has supported some 4,000 projects in more than 100 countries.

The Centre's interests are necessarily extensive to meet the needs of its Third World partners and include agriculture, forestry, fisheries, animal sciences, food storage, processing, and distribution, health systems, education, population studies, economics, urban policies, environmental strategies, science and technology policy, information systems, earth sciences, communication processes, and dissemination and utilization of research results.

The Centre fully supports and endorses the principles of the public's right to privacy and access to government information, as expressed in the Access to Information and Privacy Acts.

The Centre's organization chart can be found in Annex A.

### III STATISTICAL REPORTS

The International Development Research Centre has received three formal requests for information under the Access to Information Act during the period April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990 and, in all cases, there was full disclosure of the information requested.

No formal requests for information under the Privacy Act were received during the reporting period.

The annual statistical reports reflecting these activities were provided to Treasury Board as required under Part IV of the Interim Policy Guide (see Annexes B and C).

### IV ATIP ACTIVITIES

In April 1989, the Centre appointed a new Access to Information and Privacy Coordinator. This person, who has other functions, reports directly to the President on ATIP matters. Given the few requests received this past year, the ATIP Coordinator has spent approximately five percent of her time on ATIP matters,

responding to requests, carrying out administrative tasks and attending training courses on the Access to Information and Privacy Acts.

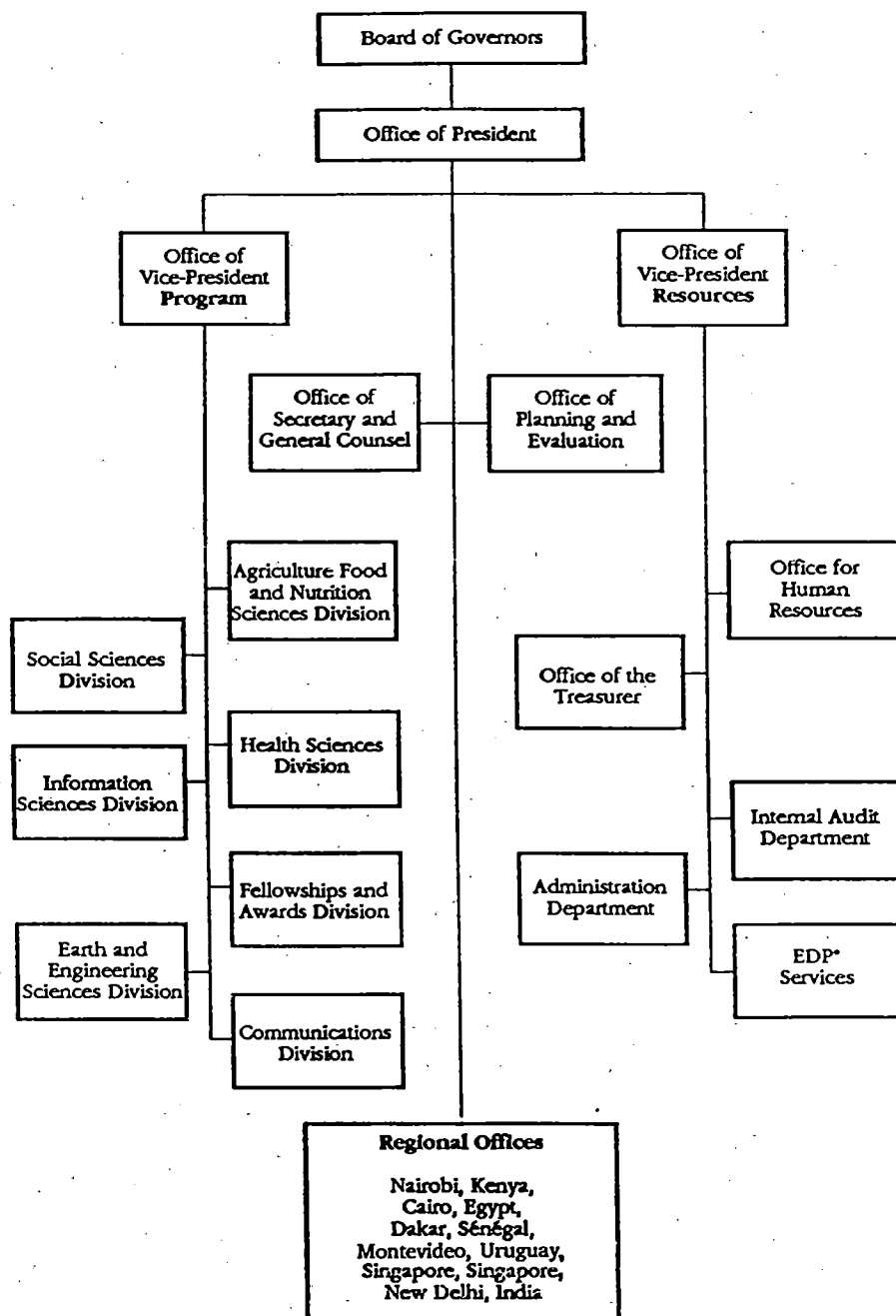
During 1989, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner undertook an audit of the Centre. In his letter to IDRC, reporting on the findings of the audit, Mr. Grace said "As you know, audit reports, by their nature, contain «brickbats», not «kudos». I just want to take the opportunity here to accentuate the positive." Recommendations were made regarding staff awareness of the Privacy Act, the Index to Personal Information, collection of personal information, retention and disposal schedules, and protection and sharing of personal information. The Centre has acted upon all twenty-three recommendations made and, with few exceptions, have all been finalized.

Modifications to the Centre's entries in the Access Register and the Personal Information Index were submitted to Treasury Board in May 1989, the latter modified in response to the audit recommendations.

No fees have been collected for providing services under the Access to Information and Privacy Acts.

## International Development Research Centre

## Organization Chart



\* Electronic Data Processing