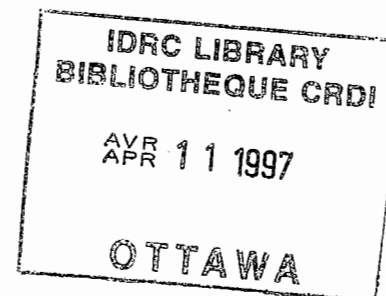


ARCSER

ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

1991 - 1992



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, 1991 to March 31, 1992.

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) 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.

At the recent United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED), the Prime Minister announced that the Centre's mandate would be strengthened to emphasize sustainable development issues and become an Agenda 21 organization.

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

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

III REPORT ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

(a) Statistical Report

The International Development Research Centre received two formal requests for information under the Access to Information Act during the period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992. In both cases, sections of the records were exempted under Section 20 of the Act.

The annual statistical report reflecting these activities were 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 provides briefings to new 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.

IV REPORT ON PRIVACY

(a) Statistical Report

No formal requests for information under the Privacy Act were received during the reporting period, nor were any complaints filed with the Privacy Commissioner. 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. This is done in part through monthly briefings to new staff, frequent meetings with the Office for Human Resources and the Records Management Office.