

## **Six Projects for ESU Canada**

This is a list of six projects based on established events or with good precedents. A team of two or three interested people could handle any one of the projects.

International Relations Conference  
Shakespeare Studies  
Secondary Schools Exchanges  
Nurses Exchanges  
Agricultural Exchanges  
Parliamentary Intern Exchange

### **Oxford Summer School**

#### **Description**

The International Relations Conference (often referred to as the Oxford Summer School) Takes place for one week in August and is open to young people in the early years of their careers. The majority of attendees are lawyers, journalists and teachers or lecturers, but the list is by no means exclusive. The week is an intense series of activities - lectures, discussion groups (formal and informal), etc. Dartmouth House recommends against participation by undergraduates.

Candidates may apply for scholarships which may cover the school fees or travel or both.

The only time that the school has operated outside the UK was in 1967 when it was held at McGill with time available to attend Expo '67.

There have been no Canadian candidates for about 20 years.

#### **The Project**

As a pilot, the 2011 program could be offered to one of the big law firms (Gowlings, Ogilvie-Renault, McCarthy-Tetrault, etc.) with the suggestion that it would be valuable to one of their junior lawyers with (say) about 3 years experience. An agreement with the law firm would include them covering the costs if a full scholarship is not available. With a successful effort behind us, the 2012 program could be offered to newspaper chains on a competitive basis and the 2013 program offered to several law firms on a competitive basis. After that we would solicit applications from all comers.

#### **What is required**

The program needs an administrator to search out a candidate or candidates and act as liaison between ESU Canada and Dartmouth House. The commitment should be for at least three years to put the program on a solid footing.

## **Shakespeare Studies**

### **Description**

There are two Shakespeare Study courses available through Dartmouth House. One is intended for teachers whose first language is not English and might well be open to a Quebec candidate. The other is a study course *Shakespeare in Stratford* The program (usually a week in early August) gives students of all ages the opportunity to immerse themselves in a week of Shakespeare's plays, lectures, discussions and workshops devised and delivered by Shakespearian experts. Scholarships are available on a competitive basis to cover tuition, theatre trips and accommodation (including breakfast), but not travel.

### **The Project**

To find candidates and work with them to make their applications. This includes providing a supporting letter to enhance their chances of getting a scholarship.

### **What is Required**

Both Toronto and Ottawa Branches are holding SHOP competitions in November. It would seem that this would be the catchment area for a candidate. Note that the description says "students of all ages". This would include teachers.

## **Secondary Schools Exchange**

### **Description**

The SSE Program has existed between the UK & Canada and the UK & US for several years. The original plan was for 12 Canadian students to attend a school in the UK and 12 UK students to attend a school in Canada for a full school year. In recent years the US has taken most of Canada's allocation.

The program was originally operated by ESU Canada and came to depend on one particular teacher. Eventually that teacher (by then a head teacher) retired and ceased to operate the program. No-one in ESU Canada had any familiarity with the project or even knew that it was in operation, except that we became aware of a student (Kate Prentice) at Ridley College, St Catherines. Kate attended our AGM in Calgary in 2002. There was a UK student at Ridley College for the 2009/2010 academic year.

### **The Project**

To re-activate the SSE so that Canada takes its full allocation of places.

## **What is Required**

First to find out the status of the SSE by contacting Dartmouth House and Ridley College. Next to make contact with the schools organization to which Ridley College and other similar schools belong, to find out if there is a role for the ESU. There is a possibility that there are sufficient trans-Atlantic contacts via the Internet that exchanges are taking place without the need for a coordinating body such as the ESU.

If there is a role for the ESU then the task is to set up the administrative procedures to fulfil that role and to run the program for a minimum of three years and finally to have it in 'good shape' so that someone else can take it over smoothly.

## **Nurses Exchange**

### **Description**

The ESU in the UK operates nurse exchanges with several countries. We have been approached to have Canada included in the program after an hiatus of several years.

### **The Project**

To establish contact with the program administrator in the UK to establish the parameters of an exchange. Then to contact a local health authority to see if they are willing to work with us. Finally, to have an ongoing program of exchanges.

## **What is Required**

A manager to undertake the several parts of the project and provide a template so that it can be applied to other exchanges. In the past we have also facilitated exchanges of police and firemen.

## **Agricultural Exchanges**

### **Description**

This is another activity which ESU Canada has pursued in the past but which has fallen by the wayside. The last two exchanges, in the '90s, involved a young dairy farmer from Yorkshire exchanging with a young dairy farmer from just south of Ottawa and a young cattle farmer from Argentina and a banker whose specialty was dealing with the farming community in Saskatchewan.

With Canada's wide range of agricultural activities and its dependence on the 'AgBiz' there should be interest in animal and crop farming - beef and dairy cattle, pigs, wine, orchards and even tobacco.

### **The Project**

To re-open the exchanges.

### **What is Required**

The two sides of the equation are to find out if there is interest in Canada and then to contact an ESU which might find complementary candidates. Argentina is obvious for beef; Chile and Moldova are wine producers, etc. An essential part of the task is to document activities and to provide a template for others to expand and continue the work.

### **Parliamentary Intern Exchanges**

#### **Description**

There are tri-partite exchanges of parliamentary interns between London, Paris and Washington. It is not something which ESU Canada has been involved with so we have little background on the conduct of the exchanges.

However, during the WMC in Scotland (2008) there was the opportunity to have a brief chat with Alex Fergusson, the Presiding Officer (Speaker) of the Scottish Parliament, who seemed interested. A subsequent discussion with Jon Dye of ESU Scotland (at the International Council, October 2009) indicated further interest.

#### **The Project**

To negotiate the exchange of parliamentary interns between Canada and Scotland.

### **What is Required**

Contact with Dartmouth House to find out how the London-Paris-Washington program works and the finances involved. Contact with ESU Scotland to ensure that there is an interest. Contact with the federal political parties (Whips or House Leaders) to see if the interest is mutual. Shepherding the program to completion of the first round of exchanges. Documenting the process so that it can be continued and expanded to other countries.