



Circular Prim 12/04

PRIMARY BRANCH

TO BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT AND PRINCIPALS OF NATIONAL SCHOOLS

PILOT PROJECT FOR IRISH-CANADIAN TEACHER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

1 Introduction

The Minister for Education and Science wishes to refer to the pilot programme announced in Circulars 61/98, 34/99, 5/01 and 18/02 whereby teachers in national schools were invited to apply for participation in an exchange scheme with teachers in the province of Ontario, Canada. The Minister is pleased to announce that the programme will operate again in the 2005-06 school year.

2 Aims of scheme

- 2.1 The main aim of the programme is to broaden the professional development of teachers, and to strengthen their cultural awareness. This would, in turn, have clear benefits for both pupils and school communities.
- 2.2 It is hoped that the scheme will also help to promote international understanding and goodwill, and facilitate the exchange of information and practices in educational matters.

3 Scope of scheme

- 3.1 The scheme is open to permanent teachers who have completed their probation, except for those teachers whose names are on, or due to be placed on a redeployment panel. All applications will be subject to Board of Management approval.
- 3.2 Schools involved in the scheme will have to make arrangements to ensure that the whole curriculum will be taught in the school. Accordingly, Boards of Management are advised to consult with school staff regarding this matter. Parents of pupils in the class(es) concerned should also be advised prior to the exchange taking place.

4 Operation of scheme

- 4.1 The fifth phase of the programme will commence in September 2005 on a pilot basis, and will again be confined to 10 Irish national teachers who will exchange with a maximum of 10 teachers from Ontario for the 2005/2006 school year. The intention is that Irish and Canadian teachers will exchange jobs and accommodation for the duration of the exchange. All travel costs must be borne by the teachers participating in the exchange.
- 4.2 Application forms and additional information can be obtained from

**Léargas,
Avoca House,
189-193 Parnell Street,
Dublin 1**

Telephone: 01-8731411

Fax No: 01-8731316

All applications for participation in the exchange scheme will be processed by Léargas. The processing will include matching of applications with a view to setting up mutually suitable teaching assignments and accommodation.

- 4.3 Teachers wishing to participate in the exchange should apply to their Board of Management not later than **Friday, 15th October 2004** seeking agreement in principle to their application.
- 4.4 Completed application forms should be received by Léargas by **Friday, 5th November 2004**.

5 Salary, conditions of service

- 5.1 The Department of Education and Science will continue to pay the salary of the Irish teacher participating in the exchange.
- 5.2 The exchange teacher will have the same conditions of service as exist in the host country on such issues as sick leave, length of school day and school year, school planning and inspections.

J. Bracken
Principal Officer

September 2004