
PROVINCIAL FORUM

LARGE SCALE ASSESSMENT: MOTHER TONGUE

Peter Evans, Canadian Council of Teachers of English, Moderator

This forum provided an opportunity for representatives from Canadian Ministries and Departments of Education to present a report of current and proposed activities in large-scale assessment. Eight (of ten) provinces as well as the Northwest Territories participated in this forum. Quebec provided presentations for both English and French. Additionally, the Executive Director for the Council of Ministers of Education reported briefly on projected plans for Canada-wide assessment in about 1991 of the performance of students ages 13-15.

Participants marvelled at the variety of activity reported (including student and exit examinations and performance monitoring on a cyclic basis at various grade levels), and on the focus on actual student writing (rather than objective tests of mechanics).

International NTNW members from England, Scotland, and the United States responded impressionistically to current and contemplated approaches. Time constraints precluded vigorous debate, but participants

valued the exchange of information, and several have recommended future meetings with greater opportunity for reaction and discussion.