

Background Note:

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) was created in 1968 as a result of the shared priorities of two Prime Ministers – Lester B. Pearson (Canada) and Lal Bahadur Shastri (India) – who envisioned “mutual understanding between Canada and India through promotion of scholarly exchange in the fields of social sciences and humanities”. This vision, augmented by a growing commitment also to Business and the Sciences, has been nurtured by support from both the n governments over the past 49 years. SICI has thus become a strong friendship bridge that enhances understanding of Canada in India and vice versa. SICI has enabled both countries to promote bi-national educational collaborations that favor joint projects, build institutional capacities, and facilitate exchange of manpower and resources which eventually lead to innovation. It is noteworthy that a vast majority of the bi-national projects supported by SICI place a strong emphasis on innovative ideas to tackle issues related to societal and economic development through application of joint expertise in science, technology and every other discipline in which our top class member institutions (Leading Universities, IITs, etc.) are among the leaders in the world. In 2004-05, SICI adopted a truly bi-national structure, with equal representation of both countries in its elected Executive Council. Prior to 2004, only Canadian universities were eligible to SICI’s membership. The council works through national offices in each country to implement programs that are approved and funded by the respective governments.