

Vancouver International Film Festival

The International Cultural Relations Program is also helping the Vancouver International film Festival which has built a solid reputation amongst the international film community, and provides strong support for the marketing of Canadian films. The Festival's emphasis on Asia is particularly timely. When I was in Japan last month, I signed, on behalf of the Government of Canada, a film and TV co-production agreement between our two governments. We look forward to increasingly close co-operation in this sector both with that country and other Asian countries. Your Festival has an important role to play in that regard. I would like to present a cheque to Ms. Jane MacDonald, Executive Director, Vancouver International Film Festival.

Sen'klip Native Theatre Company

I am pleased that the Sen'klip Native Theatre Company will be undertaking an extensive tour of major German and Dutch cities. Its commitment to increase the awareness of the Okanagan culture through theatre will help to encourage more tourism from these countries to the West Coast. Canada has a great deal to offer European visitors, and the tourism industry is a major force of the Canadian economy.

I would like to now present a cheque to Ms. Inga Frank, Playwright with the Sen'klip Native Theatre Company.