

PRESS RELEASE



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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today that the Canadian Government, wishing to increase its cultural relations with foreign countries, has decided to increase to \$1 million the amount provided for the programme of cultural exchanges with French-speaking countries.

This programme was launched by the Canadian Government in December 1963 when the sum of \$250,000 was appropriated. The programme, which includes scholarship exchanges, art exhibitions and theatrical presentations in French-speaking countries, has aroused considerable interest in the countries concerned and has met with great success during its first year of operation. The programme at present involves France, Belgium and Switzerland and it is hoped that it will include exchanges in the future with other countries which are entirely or partially French-speaking.