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\$250,000 TO LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS

The Honourable Charles Lapointe, Minister of State (External Relations), today announced that the Government of Canada would provide a grant of \$250,000 to the Grands Ballets Canadiens, as part of the Department of External Affairs' programme to promote Canadian artistic activities abroad. This programme is designed to provide Canada's main international partners with a clearer picture of the quality of intellectual and artistic life in our country.

The Grands Ballets Canadiens will visit Japan, and it is expected that the tour will include other Asian countries. Mr. Lapointe was very pleased with the participation of the private sector, without which this endeavour would not have been possible.

Special mention was drawn by the Minister to the valuable contribution made by Mrs. Ludmilla Chiriaeff, founder of the Grands Ballets Canadiens, to the success enjoyed by the Company since its inception. He was convinced that the coming Asian tour would greatly help to expand and to strengthen Canada's relations with the countries in the region.