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COMPAGNIE MARIE CHOUINARD TO PERFORM MAJOR EUROPEAN TOUR

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that a grant of \$120 000 would be provided to the Compagnie Marie Chouinard to enable it to make a two-stage tour of Europe. The Quebec Government is also helping to fund the tour.

"I am very pleased that we are able to participate in the realization of tours like these, as they help to promote Canada's identity abroad and to confirm the incomparable dynamism of our artists internationally," said Mr. Ouellet.

During the first part of its European tour, from June 15 to 22, the company will stage Marie Chouinard's work, *Les Trous du ciel*, in the German cities of Dusseldorf, Leverkusen and Neuss. During the second part, from July 18 to August 28, the company will first visit the major Contemporary Dance Festival in Châteauvallon, France, where it will stage *Le Sacre du printemps*, another of the famous Quebec choreographer's works; it will then stage the same performance in Austria (Vienna), Germany (Munich, Hamburg and Berlin) and Switzerland (Berne).

The cheque was handed to Mrs. Chouinard today by Alfonso Gagliano, Chief Government Whip, at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. A portion of this grant was already allocated for an initial tour of Belgium, Scotland and Israel last May. Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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