

Culture and Sports

Culture and sports have also been integral parts of the large Canada-Chinese exchange programmes. Sports exchanges have included competitions in Canada and China by athletes in table tennis, badminton, basketball, swimming, gymnastics, volleyball, and hockey.

The Chinese cultural contribution to the exchange programme was crowned by the Exhibition of Archaeological Finds of the People's Republic of China at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto from August to November 1974. Since 1972 a highly successful exhibition of Chinese arts and handicrafts has been displayed annually during the Man & His World exhibition in Montreal. A large delegation of Chinese journalists, led by Chu Mu-chih, Director of the New China News Agency, spent two weeks travelling across Canada in June 1973.

There have been highly successful exhibitions of Eskimo art in Peking and Shanghai in early 1973. Also, organized by the National Gallery of Canada under the auspices of the Department, an exhibit of paintings entitled "Canadian Landscapes" was shown in Peking and Shanghai from April 16 to May 27, 1975. The collection comprised of sixty-nine paintings by forty-four Canadian artists who were born between 1810 and 1920. It is estimated that some eighty thousand people visited these exhibits, which received very favourable coverage in the Chinese press. In the autumn of 1974, a twenty-member Canadian media delegation reciprocated the visit to Canada of the Chinese journalists the previous year.

In September 1973, a bilateral agreement was reached between Canada and China providing for the creation of an academic exchange programme. Under this agreement, the third group of students were exchanged in 1975 and will be studying in each other's country until 1977. Reciprocal higher education delegations and university professor exchanges occurred in 1974/75.