

# CULTURAL

# Attaché

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Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

It is my pleasure to greet the readers of this first issue of *Cultural Attaché*.

Our world is changing daily. Barriers to the free movement of goods, ideas and people, as well as those pertaining to geographic borders, continue to fall. Technological change constantly forces us to reassess how we create and produce.

In the face of these fundamental changes, we must guard against allowing ourselves to yield to the pressures for global uniformity. On the contrary, we must show the world who we are. Our artists, educators, creators, and performers are clearly in the best position to fulfil this role, since they draw their inspiration from our very identity.

The Government recognizes the importance of these communities and the necessity of giving them the support that they require. I am convinced that the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has a decisive role to play in promoting our identity and our values abroad.

By celebrating our successes overseas, this newsletter will help to boost our country's image as a talented and respected player on the international stage.

International cultural relations are of key importance in developing Canada's interests. They strengthen our national identity, enhance federal-provincial partnerships, increase Canada's influence abroad, and give Canada an added competitive advantage. This newsletter is therefore intended as a valuable source of information for all members of Canada's arts and academic communities, and seeks to assist them in their exploring, promoting and programming activities.

André Ouellet