

Cultural Assistance Policies

The Program has for a long time provided considerable resources to the publication of literary works and to the visual and performing arts.

In 1986-87, the Multiculturalism Program provided more than a million dollars to assist 161 projects to publish literary works, and more than \$2.2 million for 243 projects in the visual and performing arts.

Grants are available as well in the dramatic arts field, to those who wish to create or produce plays or to hold workshops. For instance, the Secretary of State recently subsidized the production of a play entitled *The New Canadian Kid* that explores the integration of immigrant children into Canadian society, and the production of a play entitled *Skin*, performed during the Children's Festival in Vancouver.

In the areas of film and audio-visual productions, grants are awarded to encourage development, scriptwriting and production. For instance, the Department of the Secretary of State contributed to the presentation of a program of multicultural films in repertory cinemas throughout Canada and sponsored a part of the Toronto Film Festival called *Cultures in Conflict*. It also provided financial assistance for the production of a T.V. series entitled *Inside Stories*, which probed the lives of ethnic communities in Toronto. The scripts are the work of writers who live in these communities.

Furthermore, the Secretary of State provides funds for folk art organizations and for the training of artists. Those funds are also available to amateurs, both organizations and individuals. They are also used to finance the translation into English and French of Canadian literary works written in foreign languages.

Also worthy of mention, Mr. Speaker, are the funds provided to community and amateur theatre groups and to various special activities. The latter are extremely varied and include the following, for instance:

The Canadian Heritage Festival, an annual event of national scope that is held in a different province from year to year;

A heritage festival organized by the Moncton Multicultural Association, that calls on the talents of a large number of regional artists;

The re-issuing of a general guide published by the *Sikh Education Society of Vancouver*;

The organization of a cultural festival in London, Ontario, for the purpose of introducing the general public to Eritrean crafts, cooking and music;

An art contest and an essay competition for the children of Kelowna, organized by the multicultural association of that region.

The production of a pamphlet and a short film on the experience of immigrant women in Prince Edward Island;

The organization, this fall, by the Edmonton Chinese Multicultural Centre of a cultural presentation entitled *A Duet of East and West*, and the showing, every two weeks, of films on Chinese culture.

And finally, last March in Winnipeg the first national conference on folk arts was held. The Department of the Secretary of State was particularly proud to sponsor that important meeting which dealt with the future of folk arts in Canada and was attended by the spokespersons of various communities, artists, and public servants. Participants discussed the future of multicultural folk arts in Canada and the ways of promoting and enhancing them to best advantage.

I could go on and on and continue to list other similar projects.

The program to assist multiculturalism will provide \$192 million in the course of the next five years to implement the Canadian Multiculturalism Act. This means \$62 million in new money. Of these new funds, \$14.5 million will be devoted over the next five years to the promotion of heritage languages and cultures. In 1991-92, the annual budget for that item will be \$13.8 million.

Part of this amount will be used to finance activities aimed at promoting various cultures through literature, the visual arts, and the performing arts.

The Department of the Secretary of State has already created a multiculturalism secretariat to encourage federal departments and agencies to help implement the multiculturalism policy stated in the Canadian Multiculturalism Act.

The Disabled Persons Participation Program has a budget of \$3.2 million. Again, Mr. Speaker, these funds are used to finance a wide variety of projects carried out by associations of the disabled, among other things.

We could mention the Insight Theatre Company, which received a \$20,000 grant to produce a film with blind actors, and "A Show of Hands", the only Canadian theatre troupe made up of deaf and hard of hearing actors, which received \$50,000 for a cross-country tour.

Among the activities of the National Week of the Disabled, let us mention the gala held at the National Arts Centre that brought together disabled artists, including actors, singers and musicians.

A resource centre for the arts in Newfoundland received \$7,000 to produce the "Trawler Show".

The Women's Program has a budget of \$13.2 million to promote women's issues. The visual arts, literature, theatre and film are indeed effective vehicles for this purpose.

Although it would be ideal to have more money to help all sectors of artistic activity more, our present granting policies and eligibility criteria are meeting Canadians' needs adequately.