

The development of a national policy in the cultural field was initiated a long time ago. This policy consisted of the creation of national institutions which were felt necessary for the cultural life of the nation, and of the provision of financial assistance to individuals and organizations engaged in certain cultural activities.

The oldest federal institution in this field is the National Museum which dates back to 1842. Then followed the Public Archives, the National Gallery, the National Research Council, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Film Board and, more recently, the National Library. All these agencies have already, or will get in the near future, suitable accommodation and will be better able to reach the objectives for which they have been established. A Royal Commission is investigating our policy in the field of radio and television and it is expected to present its recommendations at the beginning of 1957.

The first programme designed to provide federal assistance to individuals and organizations in the cultural field was initiated in 1917 by the National Research Council. It consisted of offering scholarships to graduate students in the natural sciences and grants to universities for the provision of equipment and other facilities. In 1917 there were practically no university groups doing an appreciable amount of scientific research. It is probably not an exaggeration to say that the support provided by the Council has been largely responsible for the development of scientific research in Canada over the past 40 years. During that period the federal contribution has amounted to approximately \$25 millions, and all universities having science or engineering faculties have participated in the programme. More recently, the Defence Research Board and the Atomic Energy Control Board have initiated similar assistance in related scientific fields. The Federal Departments of Agriculture, of Labour, of Fisheries and of Transport also give annual grants to universities for specific research activities or for extension work. The University training programme organized by the Department of Veterans Affairs still involves each year a substantial sum of money.

Under the National Health Programme inaugurated in 1948 by the Department of National Health and Welfare in collaboration with all provincial governments, additional training facilities were provided at several Universities. The cost of this programme is met from funds provided by the federal government to the extent of \$500,000 annually. Approximately \$75,000 a year is also provided to Canadian Universities as tuition and other fees for trainees specializing in various health fields. The research activities at the Universities, particularly in the field of public health, are supported through the Programme with an annual amount of approximately \$800,000.

As far back as 1913, substantial assistance was given to the provinces under the Agricultural Instruction Act. After World War I, further aid was given the provinces to stimulate the development of technical schools for other industries. During the thirties the programme was broadened to include various forms of youth training. These earlier developments were followed during World War II by the passage of the Vocational Training Co-ordination Act. Under this act the Minister of Labour is given authority to enter into agreements with the provinces for any period of time to provide financial assistance for the construction and operation