
organizations for the performing arts and custodial institutions. Among these are the Vancouver Art Gallery — \$4.5 million; the Thunder Bay Arts Centre — \$3 million; and the Sudbury Theatre Centre — \$500,000...

And the fourth component is assistance for special cultural activities of national significance or character. Among projects funded to date in this area are: Onstage 81 — the Toronto International Theatre Festival — up to \$250,000; Creative Canada Créative — the cultural component of the Canada Games — \$250,000; Canadian Association of Professional Dance Organizations — for a national dance spectacular — \$71,500; and the Concours de musique du Canada — for finals of its national music competition — \$216,135.

Important as these large and immediate grants to organizations and institutions may be in their direct and indirect effects on artistic and cultural life in Canada, the primary concern of the government has been and must continue to be to improve the status of the artist, whose condition still has not reached acceptable levels of income. In this primary concern the government acts most directly through the Canada Council.

This is the quickest and most effective way to reach out. Therefore the government has, even in this period of restraint, granted \$52,941,000 to the Council for 1981-82. Of this, \$49,941,000 was its original appropriation, an increase of nearly 12 per cent over the previous year's amount, plus an additional \$3 million, which was added to its base budget. That comes to 18.5 per cent over last year's figure on my pocket calculator.

Other, more indirect support, is also already in place. For instance, the Canadian book publishing program is now in its second year. Under the sales incentives component of the program \$3.7 million was disbursed to 67 publishers. These funds will help Canadian-owned publishing firms to increase their promotion, marketing, sales and distribution capabilities. More than \$125,000 has been awarded to the Book and Periodical Development Council for a project on electronic book-ordering and distribution. And \$91,000 was given to the Société de développement du livre et du périodique for a marketing study.

In the area of support for commercial films, I will announce very shortly the details of changes in the capital-cost allowance, which will put even greater emphasis than before on the support of Canadian creators and creativity in film production.

That gives you a quick view of the most important things that we have been able to accomplish so far. It is not as much as I would have liked. There are however a number of areas where new measures are on the threshold of being implemented.

Of those, the two most directly supportive of the artist, and of particular interest to you are: tax status — the so-called Disney Report — and the reform of copyright regulations.

Tax status

As most of you are aware an interdepartmental committee has been studying a previously commissioned report on the subject of artists' tax status.
