

The Canada Council was established by Parliament in 1957 to promote the arts in Canada. It functions through a comprehensive program of financial assistance and special services offered both to individuals and to organizations. The Council also has some responsibility for promoting Canadian culture abroad, and provides the secretariat for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.*

Organization

The Council is headed by a 21-member board, appointed by the Government of Canada, which usually meets four times a year to set Council policies and make decisions within the terms of the Canada Council Act. Such policies and decisions are implemented by a staff headed by a Director and an Associate Director, both appointed by the Federal Government. The Council's head office is in Ottawa, and there are regional representatives in the Atlantic Provinces and the Prairie Provinces.

In the development and application of its policies and programs, the Council and its staff rely heavily on the advice and co-operation of artists and professionals concerned with the arts from all parts of Canada, who are consulted both individually and as members of juries, committees and advisory groups. The Council also works in close co-operation with federal and provincial cultural agencies and with the Cultural Af-

fairs Division of the Department of External Affairs.

The Council reports to Parliament through the Secretary of State, and is called from time to time before Parliamentary committees, particularly the House of Commons Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts. Its accounts are examined by the Auditor General of Canada, who reports on them to Parliament.

Financial resources

Annual grants from Parliament are the Council's main source of income. These grants are supplemented by income from a \$50-million endowment fund established by Parliament in 1957. The Council has also received substantial amounts in private donations and bequests, usually for specific purposes. For the fiscal year 1978-79, the Council has a budget of some \$49 million.

Aid to artists and arts organizations

As a general rule, to qualify for Council assistance individual artists must have completed their fundamental training and have at least some claim to professional status. Assistance is available to such artists and to administrators, critics and other persons whose work affects

*Until March 31, 1978, the Council was also responsible for encouraging graduate studies and research in the humanities and social sciences. This part of its mandate has been transferred to a new organization, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.