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Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

CULTURES

International

Vol. 1, No. 2

The Quarterly Newsletter of International Cultural Relations

Summer 1992

ICR to join new granting agency

As announced in the federal budget of February 25, the International Cultural Relations (ICR) program of External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC) is to be integrated into a new granting agency which will consolidate Canada's domestic and international cultural programming. During the transitional phase of the merger, there will be no disruption in the delivery of granting programs and activities.

This new agency will merge ICR's academic and cultural wings, the Canada Council and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). This will create a single council whose international mandate will enable it to project Canadian scholarly and artistic achievements abroad, and support research and teaching about Canada in other countries.

The other two programs currently administered by the ICR Bureau will move to other departments. The International Expositions Program will be taken over by the Department of Communications, and the International Sports Program will go to Fitness and Amateur Sport Canada.

While the decision to create the new agency is expected to improve efficiency, the main advantage will come from gathering a critical mass of expert personnel who will be able to share their contacts and experience to the mutual benefit of all programs involved. The new council, while continuing to provide established programs and services, will also play an invaluable role in

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enhancing links between its Canadian and international constituencies.

Within the new structure, the budget for international cultural relations will be clearly identified, and all current programs will be maintained and will continue to reflect Canada's international interests. The Memorandum of Understanding, to be signed with the new council, will provide for constant and ongoing EAITC involvement in the policy

formulation process.

Indeed, the Department, along with the Canada Council, the SSHRC, Treasury Board, the Privy Council Office and the Department of Communications, is actively involved in the planning of the legislation creating the new council.

Views from the international and Canadian artistic and academic communities are being taken into careful consideration, to ensure that the merger enhances future program delivery. Future program changes of the council will be initiated only after discussions with the communities involved.

Administrative mechanisms which have proven effective over time, such as the use of peer review, will be preserved. In this area, as in others, the ultimate objective of the merger is to create a greatly strengthened instrument for the support of both artists and scholars in Canada and abroad.

Canadian Response to UN Security Council Resolution 757

At the federal level, there has been a review of the Government of Canada Awards program in Yugoslavia. Two Yugoslavs now finishing their work in Canada will be allowed to complete their work. An Award winner from one of the newly independent states, scheduled to come to Canada in the fall,

will be allowed to continue. Another, a Serb, will not be allowed to take up her position unless circumstances have changed by the time her program is to begin.

Other federal agencies and the provinces have been advised of the resolution and are taking similar steps.

External Affairs and
International Trade Canada

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