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QUELLET ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA CULTURAL GROUPS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced, during a visit to Vancouver, grants to four British Columbia cultural groups totalling \$132 500. The groups are: Ballet B.C.; the Karen Jamieson Dance Company; the Sen'klip Native Theatre Company; and the Vancouver International Film Festival.

Ballet B.C. received \$26 000 to perform in Tokyo as part of a Canadian dance festival in the Far East this fall. The Karen Jamieson Dance Company was awarded \$53 000 for performances in Tokyo as part of the same festival.

These performances will be part of a major presentation of Canadian dance in Asia this fall, involving seven Canadian dance companies from across the country. Besides Tokyo, Canadian contemporary dance will be seen in Hong Kong, Singapore and Taipei.

This will be the largest showcase of Canadian artistic creativity that has ever been displayed in the Asia-Pacific region at one time, and is evidence of the increasing importance that cultural links play in Canada's relations with this dynamic and rapidly expanding part of the world.

In another artistic field, the Sen'klip Native Theatre Company received a grant of \$40 000 for a 16-day tour during the month of October to present their production of *Dreamcatcher* in 11 major German and Dutch cities. A major objective of the project is to promote tourism to British Columbia.

The Vancouver International Film Festival was provided with a grant of \$13 500 to enable the organizers to invite buyers from the Asia-Pacific region to the festival. The purpose is to create greater marketing opportunities for Canadian film makers.

These grants are provided under the International Cultural Relations Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. This program supports initiatives in the field of the arts and higher education undertaken abroad.