

CULTURE

Agreements

Canada-Mexico Cultural Agreement
Film and TV Co-production Agreement
Agreement on Museums and Archaeology
Exchange of Notes on Radio Cooperation

Major Interlocutors

Canada:

Dept. of Canadian Heritage
DFAIT

Mexico:

National Culture and Arts Council (CONACULTA)
Ministry of Education (SEP)
Ministry of External Affairs (SRE)

Extent and Mechanisms of Cooperation

Although Canada and Mexico signed a cultural agreement in 1976, it was not until 1991, with the momentum created by the NAFTA, that bilateral cultural relations began to intensify. Cultural Mixed Commissions are now held regularly, the most recent one having been in October 1995 (Mexico City).

The Cultural Mixed Commissions serve, amongst other things, to give impetus to bilateral Cultural Symposia. Two such events have thus far taken place. These fora bring together representatives from our cultural communities to explore the potential for joint projects. The 1993 Symposium, held in Mexico City, played a large part in the eventual success of the ambitious programme of events that marked (in 1994) the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Mexico. Canada aims to host the Third Canada-Mexico cultural symposium.

Under the "Bank of Missions" programme, prominent personalities from the artistic, socio-cultural and academic spheres are invited to participate in conferences and lecture tours in Mexico. In 1994, some 30 individuals were supported under this programme, which sees travel costs borne by DFAIT, while Mexico pays on-ground costs.

The Department of Canadian Heritage's relationship with Mexico has developed over the past 15 to 20 years, principally in the fields of arts, culture, heritage conservation (museums and archaeology) and tourism. From 1993-95, an employee of Canadian Heritage (on secondment to DFAIT) was posted to the Canadian Embassy in Mexico; in July 1995 she was replaced with a DFAIT officer who has taken over her duties as Cultural Attaché.

The Film and TV Co-production agreement has led to a TV series, a feature film and, most recently the IMAX movie "Mystery of the Maya". The Agreement on Cooperation in Museums and Archaeology has led to exchanges of information and