

The Department's Cultural Affairs Division was established in 1965 to develop and administer a broad range of exchange programs. The increasing importance of cultural, artistic, academic and historical affairs to the Department, its Missions and Cultural Centres abroad led to the creation of the Bureau of International Cultural Relations in 1979 and the appointment of highly qualified professionals to fill key cultural and information posts at home and abroad. The Department's long-term objective is to develop a worldwide network capable of responding to Canada's artistic and academic communities' increasing need for a sustained relationship with foreign audiences.

The principal long-term cultural objectives of the Department are:

- to reflect the creativity and scope of Canadian culture internationally;
- to establish a strong Canadian cultural presence abroad in those cultural and academic milieux most directly relevant to Canada's interest;
- to improve professional opportunities abroad for Canadian artists and academics and to open new markets for Canadian cultural products;
- to facilitate Canada's cultural and academic communities' access to foreign resources.

To attain these objectives Canada has undertaken exchanges with certain countries under formal cultural agreements. Canada has signed such documents with Brazil (1944), Italy (1954), France (1965), Belgium (1967), the Federal Republic of Germany (1975), and with Mexico and Japan (1976). In addition, there is a General Exchanges Agreement which Canada signed with the USSR in 1971 (which includes cultural and academic programs along with a variety of scientific exchanges). Canada also has active cultural exchanges which are not governed by any formal

diplomatic agreements with a number of countries such as Great Britain, the United States, and China.

The programs of the Bureau of International Cultural Relations are developed in close co-ordination with the Department of the Secretary of State and with other cultural agencies of the federal government (primarily the Canada Council, the Touring Office of the Canada Council, the National Film Board, the National Museums of Canada, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada). There is also regular consultation and co-operation with the cultural ministries of the provinces, and a wide range of non-governmental agencies. Projects are administered abroad by Canadian Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates General. Direct responsibility is assumed by Canadian Cultural Centres in Brussels, London and Paris and cultural affairs officers in Bonn, Mexico, Moscow, New York, Rome, Tokyo and Washington.