

New film and television centre

Communications Minister Francis Fox has called for the public and private sectors to enter into partnership to create an international film and television centre in Montreal. The government of Canada is prepared to contribute \$22 million to help establish the centre, which would cost an estimated \$36 million. The government's contribution would be part of an over-all investment of \$109 million in the province of Quebec announced recently by the Minister of State for Economic and Regional Development, Donald Johnston, and Finance Minister Marc Lalonde.



Francis Fox

"According to three recent studies, the creation of a centre integrating film and television facilities would be both viable and profitable," Mr. Fox said. "The government of Canada is convinced of the importance of this project and is prepared to provide a major portion of the funds and to co-ordinate site selection and installation of facilities."

"To ensure the success of the venture, we are counting on the support of the private sector," the minister added. "It is for this reason that I am calling on entrepreneurs in the film and television industries to invest now in this major project."

The federal government's investment of \$22 million will come from federal funds allocated to regional and economic development in Quebec.

The centre would be operated by a private profit-making corporation, with the majority of the company's shares in private hands, said Mr. Fox.

The federal contribution would involve refitting some of its existing production facilities — such as the National Film Board's studio and the CBC's international broadcasting centre — and making them available to the centre's clients. The government would also contribute to the corporation's common start-up fund, which could be done through the purchase of preferred shares.

The centre's main task would be the promotion and marketing of Montreal's film and television industries, Mr. Fox said, but it would also be responsible for promoting the region's performers.

The management team would help sell the facilities to international businessmen and film-makers.

Canada shares world's most powerful telescope

Canada is part owner of the world's most powerful telescope. Built by the National Research Council in co-operation with the government of France and the University of Hawaii, the telescope is called simply CFHT, from the initial letters of its three sponsors.

The 355 centimetre telescope is situated on the summit of an Hawaiian mountain, Mauna Kea. This site was chosen because the altitude, 4 200 metres, raises the telescope above half of the world's atmosphere. This means, for example, that infra-red radiation from distant stars, which is blocked at lower elevations by water vapour in the atmosphere, streams through with great clarity.

Barry Madore of the University of Toronto, who has been using the telescope to study distant galaxies, says it enables him to distinguish between separate stars in galaxies 30 million light years away. With less powerful and less well situated telescopes, he says, such stars appear to blur together.

Professor Madore and his University of Toronto colleague, Wendy Freedman, are working on a project to measure the distances between the known galaxies.

Such measurements, which were not possible before Telescope CFHT became operational in 1979, will help scientists estimate the age of our universe. Last year, the American Astronomical Society awarded Professor Madore the Henri Chretien prize for his outstanding research.

Among the other Canadians who are working with the powerful new telescope are John Hutchings of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria, B.C. and Christopher Fritchett of the University of Victoria. Their specialty is quasars, those strange accumulations of stars which were discovered a mere 21 years ago hovering at the most remote limits of our universe. At first they were identified only by their radio waves because, at that time, no telescope existed that could enable anyone to see them.

Using CFHT, Professor Hutchings has examined 80 quasars, and he speculates that they may be galaxies in the making, or interacting galaxies. His colleague, Professor Pritchett, says that the most remote quasar so far discovered is 14 billion light years away. He describes this as "possibly the last frontier of science".

(Article from Canadian Scene.)

Governor General receives award



The Duke of Gloucester (right), Grand Prior of the Order of St. John, recently invested Governor General Jeanne Sauvé as Dame of Justice in the Order of St. John at a ceremony at Kensington Palace, London. The Governor General's husband, Maurice Sauvé was invested as Knight of Grace. During her visit to London, the new Governor General was received by Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace.