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# news release

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Date **October 14, 1994**

No. 204

For release

## CANADIAN CULTURE ON DISPLAY IN MEXICO FESTIVAL

A major Canadian cultural festival marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and Mexico, and featuring some of Canada's top film-makers and performing artists, opens October 17 in Mexico City. The Montreal Symphony Orchestra will inaugurate the event with a performance at Mexico City's Palacio de Bellas Artes.

Festival Canada is organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in collaboration with other Canadian and Mexican organizations. It runs until November 13.

"This is an ideal way to celebrate our 50 years of diplomatic relations," said Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet. "The trade and political links between our two countries have been growing enormously in recent years and appreciation of each other's culture is an important part of this deepening relationship."

Mr. Ouellet expressed his gratitude to the Canadian participants in the festival and to the Mexican partners, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, the Festival Internacional Cervantino, and the Cinemateca Nacional.

One of the centrepieces of Festival Canada is a special film showcase, Los Cines del Canada, featuring more than 40 Canadian films and a number of the country's leading directors. It is being organized in partnership with Telefilm Canada, and in collaboration with the Cinémathèque québécoise and the National Film Board.

"I am extremely proud of what we are putting on display at Festival Canada and hope that our Mexican friends will take full advantage of the opportunity to get better acquainted with our accomplishments in areas such as film, music, theatre and visual arts," Mr. Ouellet added.