

for Canada to be a service industry for Hollywood. . . it is time that we make movies in Canada that speak for themselves and speak for ourselves." One hope for the centre is that it will encourage the creation not only of sleeker international products, but also of films that explore distinctly Canadian themes and concerns.

The centre's establishment underlines Canada's commitment to enhance the development of the Canadian film industry and to enable it to compete better internationally. In Jewison's view, "Other countries have made it happen. If (they) . . . can make films that dominate the world market, so can we."

Airwaves to Asia-Pacific

Radio Canada International (RCI) is now broadcasting to Asia and the Pacific. Beginning April 4, RCI — Canada's voice abroad — is on the air three hours a day in English, French, Japanese, Russian and Ukrainian.

This new shortwave service is being made possible thanks to an agreement with Radio Japan. The arrangement permits RCI to use Radio Japan's Yamata transmitters to reach the Asia-Pacific region, in exchange for Radio Japan's use of RCI's Sackville

transmitters located in New Brunswick, on Canada's east coast, to broadcast into the United States.

RCI's primary purpose is to reflect Canada to the world — to produce programs that tell listeners what's happening in Canada and how Canadians feel about what's happening in the rest of the world. Audience research shows it has more than 16 million regular listeners, a figure expected to rise as the new service to Asia and the Pacific becomes better known.

An Act of Unity and Equality

A historic new bill aimed at enshrining into law the government's commitment to multiculturalism was recently introduced in Canada. When passed, the multiculturalism bill will become the world's first multiculturalism act.

The Canadian Multiculturalism Act will

- give full legislative

recognition to Canada's cultural and racial diversity;

- promote the preservation and enhancement of heritage cultures;

- provide a legislative base for a race-relations strategy;
- stress public awareness and participation in overcoming prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination; and
- recognize the need for all institutions to ensure equality of opportunity for all Canadians regardless of race, colour, age, religion or sex.

The legislation is designed to encourage cross-racial understanding and to take advantage of all facets of Canada's linguistic, cultural and racial diversity.

Child Care Changes

Life should be easier for many Canadian families following the recent announcement of a new child care policy by the Government of Canada. The \$5.4-billion plan is the first new national social program introduced in Canada since the establishment of a nation-wide medical care program in 1968.

Of the 1.6 million Canadian women with children under the age of six, almost 1 million are employed outside the home. But existing licensed day care spaces can accommodate only 220 000 children. The new program is designed to improve the situation.

The strategy is a three-tiered initiative consisting of tax breaks, grants to provinces (under the Constitution child care is a provincial responsibility), and a research fund of \$100 million.

Under the new legislation, families will choose one of two tax breaks — a new child tax credit or an increased tax deduction. The tax credit option will increase the present standard credit by \$100 in 1988 and a further \$100 in 1989. In the second option, parents with receipts for child care

expenses will be able to double their deduction to \$4 000 for children under seven and for those with special needs. For older children the deduction will remain unchanged at \$2 000. The current annual limit of \$8 000 per family will be removed.

The policy will also provide grants to provinces to help subsidize existing day care centres and to increase the number of new commercial and non-profit centres.

A special fund of \$100 million will be set up to support research projects examining such issues as the child care needs of shift workers, rural and native families, as well as the integration of handicapped children into day care centres.

The new program recognizes child care as a social and economic priority for Canadian families. It will give parents more choices in caring for their children and will improve the availability, affordability and quality of child care offered in Canada.

Investment in child care: the first national social program since medicare.

