

# Introduction

The programs administered by the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of External Affairs are oriented toward two main areas:

- **Cultural Promotion:**  
comprising tours abroad by professional performing artists; exhibitions of Canadian art; lecture tours by writers and playwrights; film screenings; book donations; assistance to develop markets abroad for Canadian creative artists, to facilitate visits and work abroad for Canadian artists and to ensure Canadian participation in international cultural events; other activities which provide an opportunity to demonstrate Canadian achievements.
- **Exchange of Persons:**  
comprising programs to facilitate visits of professional cultural personalities; reciprocal arrangements with foreign institutions for exchanges of persons in the cultural field; workstudent exchange programs.

An Advisory Committee on Foreign Cultural Relations advises the Department on the artistic merit of performing companies, projects in the visual arts, soloists, authors or artists who have been proposed for a foreign tour or participation in an international cultural event abroad. This committee, which meets bi-monthly from September to June, is composed of representatives of cultural agencies of the federal government. The Department also relies upon frequent informal consultation with provincial bodies and outside experts. Final decision as to whether or not funding is offered rests with the Department; because of the limited funds available, not all applicants or projects which meet the Department's criteria can be assisted.