

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, The Honourable Mitchell SHARP, today announced the appointment of Mr. Gilles LEFEBVRE as Director of the CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE in Paris. Well-known in artistic circles in Canada and abroad, Mr. Lefebvre is President of the International Federation of Jeunesses Musicales and the Canadian Conference of the Arts and Vice-President of the Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra and the Canadian Music Centre.

Born in Montreal in 1922, Mr. Lefebvre pursued his musical studies in Paris from 1946 to 1950. Returning to Canada, Mr. Lefebvre founded the Jeunesses Musicales of Canada in 1949, the Canadian Music Club in 1956 and the JMC Orford Arts Centre in 1951. In 1955 and 1967 he organized the World Congresses of the International Federation of Jeunesses Musicales and in 1961 the first JMC national music competition. From 1964 to 1967 Mr. Lefebvre was Associate Artistic Director of the World Festival of the Canadian Universal and International Exhibition in Montreal. In 1968, in recognition of his outstanding services, Mr. Lefebvre was awarded the Medal of Service of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Lefebvre succeeds Mr. Guy VIAU, first director of the Canadian Cultural Centre. Inaugurated in April 1970, the Centre is located at 5, rue de Constantine, Paris 7e and is designed to make Canadian cultural developments more widely known in France by means of exhibitions, concerts, recitals, film showings, lectures and seminars. It also serves as an advisory service for students, teachers, artists and other Canadian visitors to Paris.

The new director intends to take up his duties in the near future.