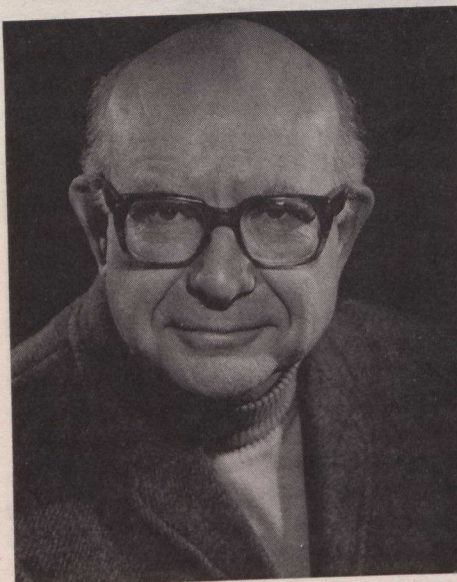


its first anniversary season to the Canada Council which subsidizes three-fifths of the company's budget for touring across Canada. The company opened its season in February at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa with a new program of three ballets, two of which were by the resident choreographer and artistic director Lawrence Gradus. One of the ballets, *Corridors*, received its world *première*.

On April 30, the National Arts Centre, the Canadian Association of Professional Dance Organizations and the National Film Board will pay tribute to the Canada Council by presenting the world *première* of *Gala*, a documentary film of the Canadian dance industry. *Gala* includes the live performance of the Canadian Dance Spectacular which involved 95 dancers from eight major dance companies across the country and was presented at the National Arts Centre in May 1981. Also included in the film is footage of the preparation and backstage activity of the Canadian Dance Spectacular.

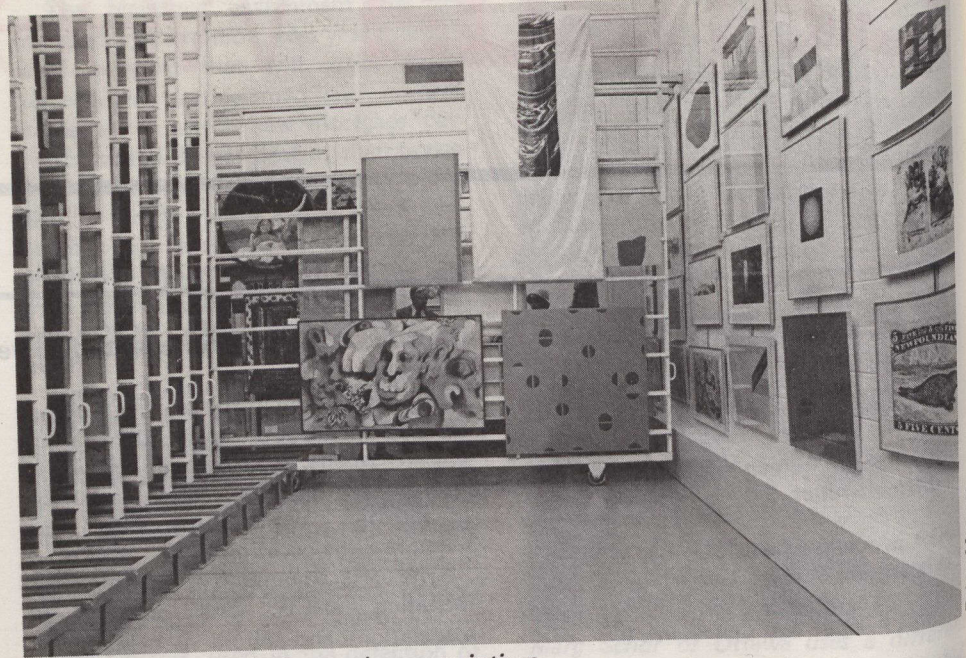
Creation of the council

The Canada Council was established by an Act of Parliament on March 28, 1957, as a result of one of the recommendations in the report of the Royal Commission of National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences, commonly called the Massey-Lévesque Commission after its chairmen, the Right Honourable Vincent Massey and Père Georges Henri Lévesque. The mandate of the council was "to foster and promote the study and enjoyment of and the production of works in the arts, humanities and social sciences".



Mavor Moore, Canada Council's president since 1979.

Robert C. Ragsdale



Art Bank warehouse in Ottawa houses paintings.

With the establishment of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in 1978, to take over responsibility for those disciplines, the council's work, except for the Killam program of prizes and grants to research scholars and provision of the secretariat for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, has been devoted to the arts.

The Canada Council is headed by a 21-member board in Ottawa. All including the director and associate director are appointed by the government.

Soon after the board's first meeting on April 30, 1957, attempts were made to develop a close association with the arts community. Initially contacts with artists were informal as council staff travelled across the country and talked to artists or watched them at work. At times the council organized "soundings" where a number of artists came together to discuss a specific or general topic. From these "soundings" emerged the Advisory Arts Panel in 1965 which has become the chief advisory body to the council today. It is a group of artists from all disciplines whose membership changes frequently and meets three or four times a year to review grant procedures and to scrutinize and assess council programs.

More recently experienced professionals, independent of the council, have been consulted to assess grant applications and separate juries have been created. Currently all applications from individual artists are evaluated by juries or independent assessors, and a number of programs of arts organizations are also

judged. In any one year some 700 artists serve as jurors or assessors.

The council's programs were originally funded with the revenue from a \$50-million endowment fund established by the government. Since 1965 the government has given appropriations to the council as well. The appropriation for 1981-82 is almost \$53 million and constitutes 85 per cent of the total budget.

Promotes cultural development

During its 25 years of existence, the Canada Council has been a major contributor to the rapid cultural growth in Canada. It has helped to provide the assistance and create the milieu in which Canadian artists in all fields can contribute and develop their skills. In meeting its primary responsibility of providing grants and services to professional artists and arts organizations, the council makes approximately 3 000 awards annually of which 1 000 are given to individual artists and 2 000 support a variety of arts organizations.

In music most of the awards are made to professional orchestras, string quartets, chamber music groups, choral groups, opera companies, music organizations and schools. The council assisted seven symphony orchestras during its first year, while today it funds 29 across Canada, providing grants for the orchestra's operations or for specific projects such as workshops and the engagement or training of professional musicians and conductors. In 1970, only three of the 15 organizations that currently produce opera in