

More information on the Division's activities is contained in the Department's publication *International Cultural Relations*.

The *Cultural Affairs Division* is responsible for the promotion of cultural relations between Canada and other countries, subject to Canada's foreign-policy objectives and specific priorities. Canadian cultural initiatives abroad are designed to enhance the image of Canadians as creators of cultural works of quality. Such initiatives also provide new opportunities for Canadian artists to compare, learn, compete and grow in the international arena. By endowing Canada's cultural relations with new dimensions, particularly its relations with countries of political and economic importance to Canada, cultural activities abroad support the Canadian foreign-policy aims of improving understanding, creating closer contacts and deepening mutual esteem among nations. Cultural programs involve professional artists in all areas — the performing arts, the visual arts, literature and the broad socio-cultural field — encompassing projects such as concert tours, travelling exhibitions, lecture tours, book donations, participation in major international festivals and international cultural meetings and special events such as "Canada Weeks". The division also invites foreign specialists in the arts to visit this

country to meet their Canadian colleagues and experience the diversity of Canada's cultural activity. Cultural affairs are co-ordinated abroad under the public-affairs programs of Canadian embassies and missions. In Paris, Brussels and London, there are special facilities to "showcase" Canadian artists. The Cultural Affairs Division negotiates and administers special programs of artistic exchanges under formal cultural agreements with certain countries and informal arrangements with others. It also co-ordinates Canada's involvement in certain aspects of its membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The division maintains contact with other cultural agencies and associations engaged in the promotion of the Canadian arts abroad, and helps keep Canadian organizations informed of cultural activities outside the country.

The *Historical Division* is responsible for the archive activities of the Department, for historical work in the realm of foreign affairs, and for the preparation of background material on international issues for use in the Department. The division deals with requests from scholars studying Canada's external relations for access to departmental records and, when possible, assists them with their research. It also conducts the Department's program of oral history.