

The following quotation is, equally relevant:

Finding jobs, ...enhancing national unity, ...and enriching the cultural identity of Canadians are all goals inextricably linked to how Canada acts in the global arena.

In the context of my ministerial responsibilities, I am putting these policy principles into practice. The Special Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Review of Canadian Foreign Policy held a round table discussion in Ottawa on May 12, at which time these questions, and many others, were addressed. I attach great importance to the contribution of the cultural sector to the foreign policy review because of its acknowledged role in helping to chart the future course of our country and its presence and recognition abroad.

In concrete terms, the International Cultural Relations Program of my department, in co-operation with other players in this field, provides support for international touring, thereby helping to promote the viability of a unique sector of our society. Our interpreters, creators and entrepreneurs create and reflect the commonality and the individuality of our Canadian culture. Their activities inspire and encourage all of us to look beyond our daily horizons, and to participate in the celebration of life.

Your performances on the stages of major cities around the world help to define us as Canadians. There could be no better way of demonstrating the objectives of our cultural presence on the international scene.

Because of the relatively small size of our domestic cultural market, and because of its regional fragmentation, your confirmed presence in the international markets is crucial not only to your artistic development and to Canada's cultural dynamism, but also to the creation and protection of meaningful jobs. Once again Canada's domestic and international concerns are inextricably linked.

I salute your creativity, your commitment and your energy. I wish you great success in your performances in Europe and the Middle East. We are all very proud of you. I know Canada's artistic excellence will be well represented by such fine ambassadors.

Thank you.