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# Reference Papers

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## THE CANADA COUNCIL

The Canada Council is an independent agency created in 1957 by the Government of Canada to "foster and promote the study and enjoyment of, and the production of, works in the arts, humanities and social sciences". It carries out this task mainly through a comprehensive program of fellowships and grants. The Council shares the responsibility for Canada's cultural relations with other countries, and administers, as a separate agency, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

The Council sets its own policies and makes its own decisions within the terms of the Canada Council Act. It reports to Parliament through the Secretary of State and also appears before such parliamentary committees as the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Film and Assistance to the Arts.

The Council consists of 21 members appointed by the Governor-in-Council. The chairman and the vice-chairman serve for terms of not more than five years, and other members for terms of three years. The day-to-day administrative work of the Council is carried out by a permanent staff in Ottawa, headed by a director and an associate director, who are appointed by the Governor-in-Council.

In matters of policy and in the implementation of its programs, the Council is assisted by two bodies of specialists, an advisory academic panel and an advisory arts panel.

The Council's income is derived from three sources: an annual grant by the Federal Government, the endowment fund established by Parliament when it created the Council, and private funds willed or donated to the Council. In addition, the Council receives funds from the Department of External Affairs to administer some of Canada's cultural exchanges with other countries.

The greater part of the Council's budget is devoted to assistance to the humanities and social sciences. The Council supports research training with several thousand doctoral fellowships and special M.A. fellowships. For research work it provides leave and research fellowships and research grants. To stimulate research communication, it provides assistance to scholarly meetings and exchanges, and contributes to the costs of publication of learned journals and scholarly manuscripts.

In the arts the Council assists organizations in such fields as music, opera, dance, theatre, visual arts, films, writing and publishing. It provides assistance for professional artists through senior arts grants (formerly awards), arts grants (formerly bursaries), short-term grants, travel grants and project-cost grants. In addition it has started an art bank of works by professional Canadian artists; works purchased for the bank are available on rental to government departments and agencies for display in public areas.

The Council's new Explorations Program is designed to support projects concerned with Canada's cultural and historical heritage and innovative projects exploring new forms of expression and creativity in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

Cultural exchange programs

On behalf of the Federal Government, the Council also administers several programs of cultural exchange with foreign countries. Under one of these, scholarships and fellowships for study in Canada are awarded to citizens of France, Belgium, Switzerland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. Another program provides Canadian universities and cultural institutions with grants to bring to Canada professors, scholars and artists from other countries; this program applies to the above-mentioned countries and also to continental Latin America. A special Canada-France program furnishes travel grants to Canadian scholars in the humanities and social sciences wishing to do research in France; the recipients are paid a living allowance by the French authorities. Under the Canadian Government's newly-inaugurated program of academic exchange with the U.S.S.R., the Council administers grants to Canadian universities for visiting Soviet lecturers and researchers, scholarships to Soviet graduate students and young specialists for study in Canada, and grants to Canadian researchers and lecturers in the humanities and social sciences who wish to be invited to Soviet institutions of higher learning. The Council also administers the funds of the Canadian Cultural Institute in Rome; the Institute's annual income is used to provide fellowships to one or two Canadian artists or scholars wishing to work or study in Italy.

The Council, in co-operation with the Foreign Area Fellowship Program (U.S.), provides training fellowships for graduate students studying for M.A.s in the social sciences, with provision for research in Latin America.

Through its program of Killam awards, the Council offers senior research scholarships, postdoctoral research scholarships and I.W. Killam memorial awards to scholars of exceptional ability engaged in research projects of far-reaching significance.

As the organization empowered to "make awards to persons in Canada for outstanding accomplishments in the arts, humanities and social sciences", the Council annually awards the Molson prizes and finances the Governor General's Literary Awards.

As an agent of the Council, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO co-ordinates the program activities of this UN Specialized Agency abroad and administers a modest program in furtherance of its objectives.

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