

# PRESS RELEASE



# COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

No.18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 8, 1967

## Belgian - Canadian Cultural Agreement

On the occasion of the official visit to Ottawa of Prince Albert of Belgium, a Cultural Agreement of a general nature between Belgium and Canada was signed on Monday, May 8, 1967. In the presence of Prince Albert, the document was signed by his Excellency Guy Daufresne de la Chevalerie, Belgian Ambassador to Canada and the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The Agreement is intended to strengthen, by means of cultural, artistic, scientific and technological exchanges, the traditional close ties of friendship which exist between Belgium and Canada. It consists of eleven articles which define the means by which the two countries are agreed to develop their co-operation and their exchanges in the various academic, artistic, scientific and cultural fields. In order to establish direct and continuous contacts between the two countries on all matters concerning cultural relations and with the purpose of ensuring the execution of the provisions which come under the terms of reference of this convention, a permanent Mixed Commission will meet annually alternately in Ottawa and Brussels.

Announcing the signing of the Agreement, Mr. Martin expressed great satisfaction with this significant step in Canadian-Belgian relations. By means of this instrument, he declared, Canadian-Belgian cultural exchanges should experience a notable increase.

Since the new Agreement concerns a field of provincial interest, Mr. Martin specified that the Federal government hoped to facilitate participation by any province wishing to avail itself of the provisions of the Agreement and would be willing to investigate the necessary course of action with the authorities concerned. (Text of the Agreement attached)

CULTURAL AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA  
and  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

- being desirous of strengthening the close ties of friendship which exist between Belgium and Canada,

- being resolved to increase cultural, artistic, scientific and technical exchanges between the two countries,

have decided to conclude the present cultural Agreement and, to this effect, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Contracting Parties, anxious to broaden knowledge of each others civilization and culture, shall collaborate to this end.

ARTICLE 2

The Contracting Parties shall, within the scope of their respective jurisdictions, promote exchanges of professors, persons engaged in research, students and trainees, artists, leaders of cultural and youth groups, and of other persons engaged in cultural, scientific and technical activities. They shall each endeavour to expand the number of bursaries, travel and training grants available to nationals of the other country.

ARTICLE 3

The Contracting Parties agree to seek ways to grant a partial or total equivalence in each other's country in respect of studies which have been completed, of successful competitions and examinations which have been passed, and of diplomas which have been obtained in the other country.

ARTICLE 4

Each Party shall encourage the presentation of artistic activities of the other Party, and to this end, shall provide the best available facilities.

ARTICLE 5

The Contracting Parties agree to facilitate on a reciprocal basis and within the scope of their respective laws, the entry into and the dissemination within their territories, of:

- motion pictures, music (in the form of scores or recordings) and radio and television programmes;
- works of art and reproductions of such works; and
- books, periodicals and other cultural, scientific and technical publications as well as of catalogues relating to them.

They agree to lend their assistance, insofar as possible, to performances and exchanges in these fields.

ARTICLE 6

The Contracting Parties shall expand their co-operation in the field of scientific research as well as in the training of administrative and technical personnel.

ARTICLE 7

Each of the Contracting Parties shall, insofar as possible, facilitate the resolution of administrative and financial problems arising from the cultural activities in its territory of the other Party.

ARTICLE 8

Each of the Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with its legislation, facilitate the admission and sojourn of nationals of the other State, and of their families, to pursue activities within the framework of the present Agreement.

They shall also facilitate, subject to the same conditions, the entry of the personal goods and effects of such persons.

ARTICLE 9

In order to establish direct and continuous consultation with each other in the field of cultural relations, and in order to ensure the implementation of the dispositions falling within the framework of the present Convention, the Contracting Parties shall establish a permanent joint Committee which shall be composed of two sections to be located, respectively, in Belgium and in Canada.

The Belgian section shall be composed of at least:

- (1) a chairman and four members appointed jointly by those Ministers whose responsibilities relate to the field of culture and by the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- (2) a representative of the Canadian Embassy in Brussels.

The Canadian section shall be composed of at least:

- (1) a chairman and four members appointed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, after consultation with interested authorities;
- (2) a representative of the Belgian Embassy in Ottawa.

Experts may be coopted to each section.

Each section shall meet at least once a year. The two sections shall meet in plenary session at least once every two years, in each country alternatively.

ARTICLE 10

The present Agreement shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Brussels at the earliest possible date.

It shall enter into force one month after the date on which the instruments of ratification are exchanged.

ARTICLE 11

The present Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years. If it has not been denounced by either of the Contracting Parties six months before the expiry of that period, it shall be renewed by tacit agreement from year to year, unless denounced at least six months prior to the expiry date of each such period.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized to that effect, have signed the present Agreement.

Done at Ottawa , the eighth day of May, 1967  
in two copies, each in the English, French and Netherlands languages,  
the three texts being equally authentic.

Signed: Paul Martin, for the  
Government of Canada

Signed: Guy Daufresne de la Chevalerie, for the  
Government of the Kingdom of Belgium