



CANADA

No. 46

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 15, 1971

INTERNATIONAL HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION
IN CANADA FROM JULY 10 TO OCTOBER 4, 1971

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, has announced that an International Handicraft Exhibition organized by the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation will be touring Canada during the summer and early autumn.

This Exhibition will open in Moncton from July 10 to 18, then will be presented in Quebec City from July 24 to August 1, in Montreal from August 7 to 15, in Ottawa from August 21 to 29, in Toronto from September 2 to 9, and in Winnipeg from September 26 to October 4.

The Exhibition will be organized in the various cities on the tour, in co-operation with the Agency and the Department of External Affairs, by the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, which had already contributed to the setting up of the Exhibition by providing examples of their own arts and crafts.

The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation was created in Niamey in March 1970, and comprises twenty-two entirely or partially French-speaking countries, including Canada. Its mission is to develop ties of mutual co-operation between countries in the French-speaking community in the fields of education, culture, science and technology.

Since the establishment of close, effective and durable ties between countries depends largely upon their people's knowledge of one another, the promotion and dissemination of culture has become one of the Agency's top priorities. As a concrete illustration of this mission, it has organized this touring Handicraft Exhibition which, by the very nature of the works presented, admirably conveys the richness and diversity of the great North American, European, Arab-Moslem, African and Asian civilizations which it brings together in one linguistic community, and also helps to shape enlightened public opinion on the cultures of the countries represented within the Agency.

To the Exhibition entitled "Unity in Diversity", the member countries of the Agency have each sent some thirty objects which all bear witness to the spirit and

traditions of their peoples. In most cases possible purchasers can put the objects to practical use since they include wearing apparel (jewelry and fabrics), objects for home decorating (carpets, cushions, knick-knacks, ashtrays) or household articles (dishes, pottery). The Exhibition will therefore appeal to a wide and very diversified public, from the professional craftsman to the do-it-yourself buff. There will be something for the reading public as well, since a collection of nearly three hundred books from French-speaking Africa will also be exhibited.

The Exhibition was inaugurated in Tunis in December 1970 in the presence of handicrafts officials from the member states. Now completing a tour of major French cities, it will continue on to Canada before returning to Europe.