

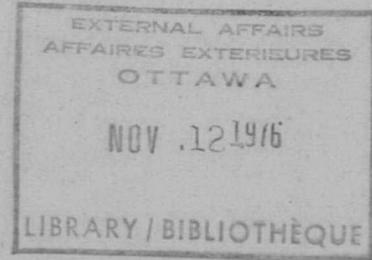


CANADA

COMMUNIQUE

No. 105

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 7, 1976



CANADA-BELGIUM CULTURAL AGREEMENT:
MIXED COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Mixed Commission provided for under the terms of the Cultural Agreement concluded between Canada and Belgium in July, 1967, is holding its second session in Brussels from the 11th to the 15th of October.

The Canadian side of the Commission is led by Mr. André Bissonnette, Assistant Under Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Belgian side by Mr. Marcel Hicter, Director General of Youth and Recreational Affairs in the Ministry of French Education and Culture.

The Belgo-Quebec Sub-commission which meets at the same time as the Mixed Commission is led on the Quebec side by Mr. André Dufour, Assistant Deputy Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs. In his capacity as Quebec head, Mr. Dufour is an ex officio member of the Mixed Commission.

Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Saskatchewan are represented respectively by Mrs. Marie Jubinville, Deputy Director of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs; Mr. Bernard Poirier, Director of Official Languages, Cabinet Secretariat, New Brunswick; Miss Rose Ann Comeau, Adviser for French Programmes, Ministry of Education, Nova Scotia; Mr. Roy E. Schatz, Co-ordinator of Teacher Exchange Programmes, Ministry of Education, Ontario; Mr. Louis Julé, Director of Cultural Activities, Ministry of Culture and Youth, Saskatchewan.

Representatives of Canadian ministries and other agencies are also taking part in the work of the Commission.

During the course of its work, the Commission will review activities which have taken place under the terms of the Agreement since the first session held last year in Quebec City from the 8th to the 10th of December. During the past year, Belgo-Canadian cultural relations have been strengthened particularly in the areas of scholarship exchange, links established between Belgian and Canadian university faculties and in exchanges of professors. The Commission will establish for the coming years a reciprocal programme of exchanges and cultural promotion consistent with the orientations of Belgo-Canadian cultural co-operation. These orientations are aimed in particular at a growth in exchanges of persons in the academic and socio-cultural sectors and at an increase in the promotion of artistic creativity.

It is of interest to note that this meeting of the Commission in Brussels will coincide with the presentation in Belgium of two Canadian activities which are part of the Cultural Agreement:

- (i) a tour from the 13th to the 22nd of October of the Théâtre du Rideau Vert of Montreal which will present the play of the Acadian playwright, Antonine Maillet, "LA SAGOINE", at the Festival of Young Theatre of Liège as well as at Arlon, Brussels, Ottignies and Namur;
- (ii) an exhibition from the 21st of October to the 15th of November at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Brussels of a collection of 50 prints by 23 contemporary Canadian artists.