

Museum houses an extensive collection of the memorabilia of Canada's military past ranging from military art and medals to tanks and bayonets from all wars involving Canadian participants. The Archaeological Survey of Canada has undertaken more than 350 research and salvage projects in Canadian prehistory in the past 12 years, including 16 in 1974, which have dramatically altered the knowledge of Canada's past. The Canadian Ethnology Service concentrates primarily on the Inuit, Indian and Métis cultures and has collected artifacts ranging from the very important Speyer Collection of early native 18th and 19th century cultural material to contemporary Inuit and Indian Art. Research in Canadian history is conducted by the History Division which has collected and restored over 15,000 items of period furnishings including the Schwartz collection of Canadiana. The Communications Division began an extension program in 1970 to provide access to the museum's collection across Canada and to ensure museum service at the community level. Its responsibilities include travelling exhibitions, 16 of which were circulated in 1974-75, and educational loans along with information and public relations services. Exhibitions depicting Canada's ethnic cultures, folk toys, Inuit history and art, Quebec furniture, the first exhibition on the Athapaskan Indians, and catalogues and monographs are part of the museum's diverse program of national and international travelling exhibitions, films and television programs.

The National Museum of Science and Technology. November 1967 saw the opening of the National Museum of Science and Technology as the newest of the four National Museums. This museum challenges over 750,000 visitors a year to climb, push, pull or just view its definitive collections. An additional 250,000 annually visit the National Aeronautical Collection.

The exhibit pavilions contain examples from the history of ground transportation such as sleighs, streetcars, steam locomotives and antique cars, to aviation and space, beginning with Canada's first powered heavier-than-air flight. There are also "seeing puzzles", experiments and skill-trying tests in the physics hall; the history of agriculture to present modern day techniques; marine transport; meteorology; time pieces; a model workshop and astronomy.

Housed at Rockcliffe Airport is the Museum's National Aeronautical Collection. Over 90 aircraft illustrate the progress of aviation from primitive to present times and the importance of the flying machine in the discovery and development of Canada. Included is one of the world's largest collections of aircraft engines.

Educational programs are developed and conducted by a staff of tour guides on general or special topics for all age groups. The newly opened observatory houses Canada's largest refracting telescope which is used for evening educational programs. Also available is a 10,000-volume library which places special emphasis on a retrospective collection of Canadian aviation.

The Science Museum also participates in the creation of distinct exhibits, many of which are sent on tour throughout Canada. There are also exchanges of artifacts with museums abroad. Annual activities on July 1st include rides in antique automobiles and stage coaches, demonstrations of vintage agricultural implements and a steam train. Also during the summer months a steam train makes a return trip from Ottawa to Wakefield, Que. each Sunday and Wednesday.

7.3.3 The Canada Council

The Canada Council was created in 1957 by an Act of Parliament, to "foster and promote the study and enjoyment of, and the production of works in the arts, humanities and social sciences". It carries out its task mainly through a broad program of fellowships and grants of various types. It also shares responsibility for Canada's cultural relations with other countries in co-operation with the Department of External Affairs. The Council meets at least three times a year and is made up of a chairman, a vice-chairman and 19 members, all appointed by the Governor in Council. Its administration is headed by a director and an associate director, also appointed by the Governor in Council.

Within the limits of the Canada Council Act, the Council enjoys a large measure of autonomy, setting its own policies and developing and carrying out its own programs in consultation with the academic and artistic community. The Council reports to Parliament through the Secretary of State and also appears before the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Film and Assistance to the Arts.