

are important educational and cultural centres. They offer many educational services to the public through exhibits, guided tours, lectures and scientific and popular publications.

Direct work with schools may involve holding classes in the museum or arranging visits of museum lecturers, with exhibits, to the schools. More informal are guided tours for visiting school classes, loans of specimens, slides, filmstrips or motion picture films to schools, and training student-teachers in the educational use of the museum. For children, a number of museums have special programs not directly associated with school work including Saturday lectures and film showings, activity groups, nature clubs and field excursions. At the higher educational level, museum field parties provide research training to university students in many disciplines and museum staffs act as professional consultants, answer a host of inquiries on scientific and technical subjects, and serve as consultants or advisers to foreign scholars and institutions.

For adults, museums offer lectures, film shows and guided tours, the latter usually available throughout the year. Staff members may give lectures to service clubs, church groups, parent-teacher associations and hobby clubs. The latter, such as naturalists' groups, mineral clubs and astronomy societies, may be allowed to use the museum as their headquarters. Travelling exhibits are prepared for showing at local fairs, historical celebrations and conventions. Some Canadian museums have conducted regular radio or television programs and others have made occasional contributions. Some historical museums stage annual events during which the arts, crafts or industries represented by the exhibits are demonstrated to the public.

## 7.8 National Museums of Canada

The National Museums of Canada, a Crown corporation within the federal government, is responsible for the administration of the four National Museums in Ottawa: the National Gallery of Canada, the National Museum of Man, the National Museum of Natural Sciences, and the National Museum of Science and Technology. In 1972, the corporation was charged with the implementation and administration of the National Museum Policy. The objectives of this policy are to give the Canadian public easier access to the objects and collections that form the Canadian cultural heritage, and to preserve them for future generations. The National Museum Policy involves large and small museums in all regions of the country. Smaller institutions are encouraged to improve the abilities of their professional staff and improve the museum facilities so they can better preserve and display their artifacts. Larger institutions are encouraged to develop advisory services for smaller institutions, to help them improve the quality of their exhibitions and loans for people in more remote areas of the country.

Four major programs implemented under the National Museum Policy include the National Inventory of Collections, the Museumobiles, the Canadian Conservation Institute and the Museum Assistance Programs. The National Inventory of Collections is compiling a computerized inventory of the art and artifacts across Canada that compose the national cultural heritage. The Museumobile Program provides a number of mobile museum units that can be transported to rural and remote regions of the country not now served by museological institutions. The Canadian Conservation Institute will ultimately provide five well equipped laboratories across the country to help museums and art galleries preserve and conserve their collections. The Museum Assistance Programs provide financial and other assistance to museological institutions for projects that train and develop museum staff, improve facilities, support education and extension programs within museums and other projects, such as travelling exhibitions, that increase public viewing of the collections. The budget for these major programs was \$15.4 million in 1975-76.

The Board of Trustees of the National Museums of Canada has created a Consultative Committee on National Museum Policy to oversee the development and im-