

7.9 Assistance to the arts

7.9.1 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 cooperation 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, 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.

The council's income is derived from three sources: an annual grant of the Canadian government which amounted to \$54.7 million for the year ended March 31, 1976 (\$40.9 million, 1975); the Endowment Fund established by Parliament when it created the council, which yields over \$5 million annually; and private funds willed or donated and used in accordance with the wishes of the donors.

Assistance to the humanities and social sciences accounted for \$25.3 million in 1975-76, as compared with \$22.3 million in 1974-75 (further references to 1974-75 are in parantheses). In support of research training, the council awarded 100 special MA scholarships totalling \$650,000 (\$573,000) and 1,387 (1,534) doctoral fellowships totalling \$8.8 million (\$8.7 million); for research work, 346 leave fellowships (390, includes post-doctoral fellowships) totalling \$3.8 million (\$3.5 million) and 681 (789) research grants to individuals, totalling \$5.7 million (\$5.4 million); 61 general research grants to universities, totalling \$635,000 (\$289,000); and a total of \$2.7 million (\$2.9 million) in assistance to learned meetings, special grants and studies, attendance of Canadian scholars at international conferences and publication of learned journals and scholarly manuscripts.

In the arts, the Canada Council spent \$30.4 million (\$21.9 million) of which \$3.5 million (\$2.5 million) was used to finance some 946 (820) grants to individuals in various art forms; \$26.0 million (\$18.9 million) was applied to grants to organizations, including \$6.3 million (\$5.5 million) for music and opera, \$7.1 million (\$5 million) for theatre, \$4.3 million (\$2.5 million) for dance, \$3.4 million (\$2.4 million) for visual arts and in 1975-76 only, photography, including \$750,000 (\$800,000) for the Art Bank, \$4.5 million (\$2.8 million) for writing and publication and \$1.1 million for film and video (\$1 million in 1974-75 included photography and cinema). Of the total arts budget, \$1.2 million (\$809,000) went to the council's Touring Office, created in 1973 to promote and stimulate the touring of the performing arts in Canada.

Through the Explorations Program, the council spent \$1.2 million to assist projects on Canada's cultural and historical heritage and innovative projects which explore new forms of expression and creativity in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

The Canada Council administers, on behalf of the Canadian government, several programs of cultural and academic exchanges with Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, China, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the USSR and the countries of continental Latin America. Under these programs, fellowships and scholarships are awarded to foreign nationals for study in Canada; Canadian cultural institutions receive grants to bring distinguished university professors, scholars and artists to Canada; and Canadian academics receive grants to lecture or conduct research abroad. Expenditures for cultural exchange programs totalled \$950,000 in 1975-76 (\$926,000 in 1974-75).

The Canada Council also administers the funds of the Canadian Cultural Institute in Rome, created in 1967 by an agreement between Canada and Italy. The institute's income is used to provide a small number of fellowships for Canadian artists