

and scholars wishing to work or study in Italy. The Killam Scholarships of the Canada Council were inaugurated in 1967 with funds from the I.W. Killam estate to help support scholars of exceptional ability engaged in research projects of far-reaching significance. In 1975-76, there were 45 awards made under this program, totalling \$1.1 million, and the previous year, 40 awards totalling \$889,000.

Under its power to "make awards to persons in Canada for outstanding accomplishments in the arts, humanities or social sciences", the Canada Council annually awards three \$20,000 Molson prizes from a fund created by the Molson Foundation. The Governor General's Literary Awards, financed by the council, are awarded annually to six Canadian writers. In addition, the council awards annually two translation prizes to the year's best English and French translations of Canadian works and two children's literature prizes to the year's best English and French books for young people.

The Canada Council Act provides for certain functions in relation to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. It has accordingly established a National Commission for UNESCO and provides its secretariat and budget. As an agent of the council, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO coordinates UNESCO program activities abroad and administers a modest program in furtherance of UNESCO objectives.

The National Arts Centre (NAC)

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Parliament passed the National Arts Centre Act in 1966, creating a corporation to operate and maintain the centre, to develop the performing arts in the National Capital area, and to assist the Canada Council in the development of the performing arts elsewhere in Canada. The building itself, designed by Montreal architect Fred Lebensold, was opened to the public on May 31, 1969. It stands on Confederation Square in the heart of Ottawa, and is in the form of a series of hexagonal halls built on landscaped terraces along the Rideau Canal.

The NAC has three main halls. The Opera, with 2,300 seats, was designed primarily for opera and ballet, with a full-size orchestra pit and the most advanced sound, lighting and other technical equipment available. Its stage is one of the largest in the world, measuring 189 by 110 feet (58 by 34 m), and the Opera's facilities can handle the most complicated changes required by the largest touring companies. The 950-seat Theatre is ideal for Greek, Elizabethan or contemporary plays, and its stage can easily be adjusted from the conventional rectangular style to the thrust stage style used for Shakespearean drama. Like the Opera, it is fully equipped for television, simultaneous translation and film projection, and its technical facilities are among the best available. The Studio is a hexagonal room which can seat up to 350 persons in a variety of seating plans. It is used for theatre productions, conferences and cabarets.

Other NAC facilities include: the Salon, a small hall seating up to 150 persons and used for chamber concerts, poetry readings, and receptions; a 900-car indoor garage; Le Restaurant, a first class restaurant and bar; Le Café, a smaller restaurant which, in the summer months, overflows on to the sidewalks along the Rideau Canal; and several large rehearsal halls. The building is richly ornamented with works of art. Its foyers are used for exhibits, and public tours of the building are offered daily. On the terraces outside, the NAC plays host to art fairs, craft markets and summertime band concerts.

Under conductor and Music Director Mario Bernardi, the 46-member National Arts Centre Orchestra performs some 40 concerts a year in the centre and many more each year on tours in Canada and abroad. Music programming includes about 70 concerts a year, featuring distinguished soloists and guest orchestras from Canada and around the world.

The Theatre Department functions in both official languages. It offers two subscription series a year, one of English-language and one of French-language plays, and also non-series productions. There are more than 400 performances of live theatre a year at the centre. Some of the plays are produced by the Theatre