

Ontario, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Fédération des centres culturels du Québec have been founded to carry out this sort of travelling program on a regional basis. On a smaller scale, art circuits are organized to serve certain areas such as those around St. John's, Nfld., Charlottetown, PEI, Trois-Rivières and Hull, Que., and Winnipeg, Man. The National Gallery of Canada conducts a national program of this nature and is one of the largest art circulating agencies in North America. Several galleries maintain an art rental service. Table 7.13 gives the number of art galleries and museums and their location by region.

7.6.4 Museums

Museums of Canada range from small collections of locally-gathered historical artifacts and objects to large government-operated institutions which collect, classify and display such objects as may be useful to the study and teaching of natural history, human history, science and technology, with special but not exclusive reference to Canada. Many of these larger museums, especially the components of the National Museums of Canada and the Royal Ontario Museum, have a long, distinguished heritage in research and publication of scholarly works and 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 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.

7.7 National Museums of Canada

The National Museums of Canada, a Crown corporation established in 1968 by the National Museums Act, reports to Parliament through the secretary of state but is administered by its own secretariat under the authority of a board of trustees. It incorporates in a single administration Canada's four major national museums, affiliated with a nationwide network of associate museums and exhibition centres. It administers a series of programs with main purposes to preserve and increase access to the treasures of the national heritage.

The four national museums in Ottawa are: the National Gallery; the National Museum of Man, which includes the Canadian War Museum; the National Museum of Natural Sciences; and the National Museum of Science and Technology, which includes the National Aeronautical Collection. In addition to these, the National Museums of Canada provides financial assistance to 21 associate museums, 28 national exhibition centres and almost 1,300 other museums and galleries across Canada.

The national museums policy, announced in a government declaration in 1972, calls for the "democratization and decentralization" of Canada's cultural heritage. In pursuit of this policy the National Museums of Canada plans the growth and