

The Ontario Council for the Arts, an agency of the ministry, was established by legislation in 1963 to promote the study, enjoyment and production of works in the arts. It provides financial assistance to performing and creative arts groups and individuals; advises and consults with members of the arts community; and develops projects aimed at promoting and expanding the arts and the public interest in them throughout the province. The council also collaborates with other agencies and levels of government in encouraging support for the arts.

**Manitoba.** The Manitoba Arts Council was formed by legislation passed in 1965 providing for a chairman, vice-chairman and 10 appointed members with the objective of promoting the study, enjoyment, production and performance of works in the arts by assisting and co-operating with those organizations involved in cultural development, providing grants, scholarships or loans to Manitobans for study or research in the arts and making awards to citizens of Manitoba for outstanding accomplishment in the arts. Working on a budget of \$636,000, the council in the year ended March 31, 1977, made grants to 31 organizations including \$71,500 to the Manitoba Theatre Centre, \$44,000 to Rainbow Stage, \$103,000 to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and \$79,200 to the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. The council's awards program provided assistance to individual Manitoba artists.

**Saskatchewan.** The Saskatchewan Arts Board was established in 1949 to make available to the people of Saskatchewan opportunities to engage in any of the following activities: drama, the visual arts, music, literature, handicrafts and other arts, to provide for the training of lecturers and instructors, to assist students ordinarily resident in Saskatchewan to pursue their studies in the arts, and to co-operate with organizations having similar objectives.

The board, funded by the provincial government but functioning independently, is composed of not less than seven nor more than 15 members appointed annually. These members are from all parts of the province but represent no specific areas or any specific discipline in the arts. The work of the board is carried out by a staff of consultants and office personnel under an executive director. Experts in various fields of the arts are engaged for specific projects.

The Saskatchewan School of the Arts, operated annually by the board at Echo Valley Centre offers one- to four-week courses during spring, summer and fall in music, creative writing, ballet, folk and modern dance, art and handicrafts.

Since 1950, the board has helped provincial artists through purchase of their works for the board's collection. This collection, which now contains over 700 items, is a valuable record of the development of Saskatchewan visual arts and crafts.

For several years an annual month-long Saskatchewan Festival of the Arts focused attention on the arts in communities throughout the province by presenting top-calibre artistic performances and exhibitions. This festival has been replaced by similar programs planned by individual communities to meet their specific needs, assisted by the organization of Saskatchewan arts councils, a provincial body funded in part by the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

The Saskatchewan Arts Board budget in 1976 was \$794,000. Assistance to organizations included a direct grant to Globe Theatre of \$64,000 plus \$23,247 in deficit protection to 145 schools in 87 communities engaging Globe's School Company, \$6,000 to the Mendel Art Gallery, \$7,000 to the Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery, \$3,500 to the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils, \$20,000 to Persephone Theatre, \$3,300 to Photographers' Gallery, \$12,000 to Regina Modern Dance Works, \$47,500 to the Regina Symphony, \$4,000 to the Saskatchewan Craft Council, \$8,000 to the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, \$47,500 to the Saskatoon Symphony, \$1,000 to the Shoestring Gallery, and \$5,000 to Twenty-fifth Street House Theatre. Four film-makers received grants totalling \$7,500 to continue work on individual film projects.

In 1976, the board's assistance to arts groups and organizations totalled \$314,660. The board also helped administer funds provided by the Western Canada lottery to six performing arts companies. Aid to individual artists included \$43,590 to 78 applicants of professional or near-professional status.