

A spectacular triangular-shaped building will provide space for aircraft display, collection storage and restoration, a foyer and a boutique, as well as an area for the Royal Canadian Air Force Hall of Tribute. The official opening was scheduled for September 1987.

The National Gallery of Canada, associated with the founding of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1880, was incorporated by an act of Parliament in 1913. Its function was to encourage public interest in the arts and to promote the interests of art throughout the country.

The gallery's collections, ranging in time from the 12th century to the present, have developed, along national and international lines with Western European art chosen to illustrate some of the roots of Canada's own cultures, the largest and most comprehensive collection of Canadian art in existence. Of the 40,000 works of art in the collections, 75% are Canadian. Many old masters are included in the gallery's European collection. Some Chardins, a Rembrandt and a Rubens were acquired from the famous Liechtenstein collection. The Massey Foundation presented its collection of English painting to the gallery in the late 1940s and the Vincent Massey bequest of 100 works by Canadian artists was received in 1968. Other gifts and bequests include the Bronfman gift of drawings (1973), the Henry Birks collection of Canadian silver (1979), the Max Tanenbaum collection of Indian and Tibetan art (1979) and the Phyllis Lambert gift of Walker Evans photographs, bringing the National Gallery's collection of photographs to 15,700 works.

Visitors may view special exhibitions and permanent installations, attend lectures, gallery talks, films, guided tours and special performances and enjoy the gallery's publications. The gallery participates in international exhibitions and prepares major exhibitions of Canadian art in collaboration with the Department of External Affairs. It also brings exhibitions from abroad to Canada.

The Canadian Museum of Civilization conducts research in Canadian studies and collects, preserves and displays objects which reflect Canada's cultural heritage. Activities extend across the country through field research programs and publications. Staff includes archaeologists, ethnologists, anthropologists, historians, folklorists, musicologists, curators and specialists in various other museum disciplines.

In the Victoria Memorial Museum Building in Ottawa, there are eight permanent exhibition halls arranged thematically and showing historical progression and continuity. "The Trail of Mankind" describes humankind's development and

the universal patterns of our existence from early times to the present, while "Canada before Cartier" presents the results of archaeological research in our country. The four ethnology halls are devoted to the Inuit of the far North, the Iroquois of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Basin, and Indians of the Central Plains and of the Northwest. Finally, "A Few Acres of Snow" depicts the struggles of the first explorers and settlers, while "Everyman's Heritage — The Canadian Odyssey" illustrates our multicultural heritage in the form of a journey along the road of life.

The Canadian War Museum, associated with the Canadian Museum of Civilization, highlights the military heritage of Canada. The collections range from cap badges and tanks to the finest assemblage of war art in the world. This museum studies the many aspects of human conflict from a military history perspective. Three floors of exhibit galleries convey four centuries of armed struggle by Canadians from the first European contact to World War II. Annual special exhibits focus on various chapters of Canada's military past from the role of women in war to the war-time work of artists such as Alex Colville. In addition, travelling exhibitions, a historical publications series and educational programs disseminate research and collections to an international audience.

The National Museum of Natural Sciences, located in the heart of the National Capital Region, presents six permanent exhibit halls: "The Earth", "Life Through the Ages", "Birds of Canada", "Mammals in Canada", "Animals in Nature" and "Plant Life". Each of these galleries introduces the visitor to both microscopic and larger-than-life details of our natural world, using varied communications techniques such as computers, video, stills, touch displays, workshops, exhibits, concerts and real specimens. More than 185 volunteers provide interpretative visits for students, teachers and special groups. Travelling exhibits, lectures, films, books and free publications bring the National Museum of Natural Sciences to its visitors in Ottawa and throughout the country.

The five scientific divisions: botany, invertebrate zoology, vertebrate zoology, mineral sciences, paleobiology and the zooarchaeological identification centre maintain the museum's collections, which are among the best in the world. Fieldwork and laboratory research are actively supported by the museum, both through its staff and through associated scientists from outside organizations. Throughout the years, the museum has produced hundreds of scientific publications, making research results available internationally.