

The National Museum of Science and Technology has had more than 10 million visitors since it opened in 1967. It presents scientific discoveries and technological advances in a hands-on manner that allows visitors to participate in and get close to the exhibits, objects and machines on display. Visitors experience the same dynamic feelings that encouraged the scientists and technicians. In the physics hall, for example, they can perform experiments and test their physical abilities and dexterity.

The halls are dedicated to ground transportation, communications and space, astronomy, time pieces, computer technology, agriculture and graphic arts.

The public programs and educational activities of the museum include daily demonstrations, guided interpretive programs on about 30 subjects, a number of extension programs, both regional and national, and an evening astronomy program in which participants view the stars through Canada's largest refracting telescope. In addition, the museum issues several publications (pamphlets and monthly sky charts, for example), takes part in agricultural fairs and air shows and, during the summer, in co-operation with the National Capital Commission, the popular steam train excursions are offered to lovers of the old way of transportation. The museum has a specialized library of about 20,000 books, journals and reference works.

Visitors interested in aviation may tour the National Aviation Museum's collection at Rockcliffe airport. It contains about 100 aircraft, along with a collection of historic engines and other artifacts, illustrating the evolution of the flying machine in peacetime and in war, and the place the airplane played in Canada's development. Following the official opening of the new building in September 1987, the main exhibit hall will feature a "Walkway of Time" that will guide the visitor through the eras of aviation from the turn of the century to the present. The following eras will be represented: "Pioneer", "World War I", "Between the Wars", "World War II" and "Post World War II".

The Agricultural Museum was created in October 1983 as the result of a joint effort by Agriculture Canada and the National Museum of Science and Technology. It is, to some extent, an extension of the agricultural technology division of the National Museum of Science and Technology. It is located at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, on the upper floor of the dairy barn which contains the Agriculture Canada showcase herd. The museum is in an ideal location, surrounded by fields, and with magnificent flower gardens and an arboretum nearby.

15.4.2 National programs

The Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) is engaged in the conservation of cultural artifacts, technical consultation, information and research on the preservation of collections for museums across Canada. It also provides advanced training of conservation personnel from museums and art galleries.

The Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) provides a wide range of services to help museums document and manage information about their collections. The network maintains a centralized automated information management system which contains more than 2.4 million records on artifacts and specimens in the collections of about 150 museums and other related institutions. CHIN also manages a national inventory of the collections of 33 museums and art galleries, which is accessible to all its users.

The international program encourages interest in international museum affairs and facilitates the exchange and circulation of exhibitions to and from Canada.

The museum assistance programs provide financial and technical assistance to non-profit museums, galleries and related institutions, in keeping with the objectives of the National Museum Policy to preserve and increase public access to Canada's cultural heritage. In 1986-87, \$8.4 million were granted to help in the following areas: public programming, conservation, exhibitions, registration of collections, special activities, training, upgrading of facilities and purchases of equipment.

The mobile exhibits program operates three museumobiles which provide a museological experience to Canadians not adequately served by museums. Each caravan — Canada North, Canada West and Atlantic Canada — consists of three 14-metre tractor trailers and contains exhibits depicting the geographic, archaeological, social and cultural history of a region of the country.

15.5 Books

15.5.1 Book publishing

The book market in Canada includes books produced by Canadian publishers for domestic sale and books imported for sale in Canada. Estimated sales from all publishers, exclusive agents and other importers reached \$1,342 million in 1984-85, of which 76% came from imported books. Estimated sales of publishers' books published in Canada increased by less than one percentage point between 1983-84 and 1984-85, while estimated sales of their imported books climbed by 4.5 percentage points during the same period.