

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 1987-88, \$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.

15.5 Heritage institutions

Information concerning this heterogeneous sector is collected on an annual basis by the culture subdivision of Statistics Canada. The 1985-86 survey of heritage institutions indicated a large proliferation of museums in this field (Table 15.6).

Nature parks, with interpretation centres, account for the largest proportion of total attendance at heritage institutions. While a decrease of almost 10% was evident in 1985-86, attendance was over 44 million. This total reflects visits to the interpretation centres within the nature parks and the general recreational activity.

The pattern of funding for these parks highlights the fact that most operate under some level of government. In 1985-86, grants received from all levels of government represented 80% of the total operating revenues, \$130.5 million. In addition to the budget received from the public coffers, nature parks reported a total of \$34.3 million in earned revenues from campground fees, admission

fees and rental of equipment. Adjusting for inflation, earned revenues from parks increased by over 10% in 1985-86, while government funding decreased by 5%; total operating revenues remained unchanged.

Expenditures by nature parks decreased by 4% with over \$130.8 million reported. Personnel costs accounted for over two-thirds of these expenses.

Other heritage institutions, including museums, art museums (non-commercial art galleries), historic sites, archives, planetariums, zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens, reported total operating expenditures of \$422.3 million for 1985-86, an increase of 1% from the previous year. Although personnel costs represented the largest budget items for all types of institutions, there was considerable variation from the average of 63% of total operating expenditures. Archives were the most labour intensive (77%) while art museums spent less than one-half of their budget (48%) on salaries and wages. One of the most important factors determining an institution's sources of revenue is its governing authority. Public institutions represented 35% of these heritage institutions surveyed, accounted for 75% of the total operating revenues and received over 77% of the total unearned revenues, primarily budgetary allocations, from some level of government.

Total 1985-86 operating revenues for heritage institutions (excluding parks) amounted to over \$462.1 million, an increase of less than 1% from 1984-85. Government funding, through grants or direct budgetary allocations, contributed approximately three-quarters of the total operating revenues and totalled \$342.1 million. Provincial funding showed a 3% increase, after adjusting for inflation, while federal funding actually decreased by 2%. Other government funding, mostly local, remained stable. Earned revenues, amounting to \$85.5 million, represented almost 20% of the total operating revenues. Other forms of funding, such as institutional or corporate budgets and private or corporate donations, accounted for the remaining operating revenues.

Attendance at these institutions has been fairly stable in recent years, with over 53.4 million visits reported across Canada for 1985-86.

Volunteers play an important role in the heritage community. In 1985-86, over 26,000 volunteers contributed their time and services to heritage institutions (excluding nature parks), a 13% increase over 1984-85. A heavy reliance on part-time or seasonal staff is also evident. While approximately 8,000 full-time personnel were reported, over 11,000 part-time and seasonal