

ticularly teachers in the public school system and instructors at special institutions such as those for the mentally and physically handicapped, the aged, or inmates of penal institutions; to provide consultative services for cultural organizations throughout the province; and to give financial assistance to individuals, local amateur and professional institutions and provincial government organizations whose aims are the development of the arts. Awards to individuals wishing to further their training in some form of the arts amount to over \$250,000 annually. The Alberta Art Foundation was established by legislation in 1972, and has been allocated \$50,000 annually for the purchase of Alberta arts and crafts. The budget of the Division for the year ended March 31, 1974 was in excess of \$1.7 million.

The Division is also involved in ethno-cultural development, offering consultative services and financial assistance in nearly all areas affecting cultural heritage. The Alberta Film Censor Board is now attached to the Division for purposes of administration.

**British Columbia.** The British Columbia Cultural Fund was set up by statute in 1967. That Act set aside \$5 million in an endowment-type fund, the interest from which was to be spent "for stimulation of the cultural development of the people of the Province". In September 1967 an advisory committee was established to receive applications for cultural grants and to report their recommendations to the Department of Finance for the necessary funds. The amount of the endowment was raised to \$10 million in 1969, and to \$15 million in 1972.

Up to December 31, 1973, grants totalling almost \$4.1 million had been awarded by the Fund to support cultural activities throughout the province. The Fund also provides a small degree of financial support to the National Theatre School, the National Youth Orchestra, the Canadian Theatre Centre and the Canadian Music Centre.

Grants totalling \$1.2 million were made in the fiscal year 1972-73, of which about 70% went to major non-profit organizations such as symphony, drama and opera societies. About 19% of the grants in each year went to Community Arts Councils and the remainder to art acquisitions, scholarships, seminars and miscellaneous grants. For 1973-74 grants totalling \$1.4 million had been awarded up to December 31, 1973.

## 7.4 Federal film agencies

### 7.4.1 National Film Board

The National Film Board, an agency of the federal government, was established by Act of Parliament in 1939 and reconstituted by the National Film Act in 1950 "to initiate and promote the production and distribution of films in the national interest". The Board's films are produced in Canada's two official languages and have made a considerable contribution to the country's culture and to the national identity. In addition to 35mm and 16mm films, the Board produces and distributes other visual aids material — filmstrips, 8mm loop films, slide sets, overhead projectuals, multi-media kits and photo stories.

The growing sophistication of film audiences and the increasing importance of film as a means of communication are reflected in the nature of the films produced — features, documentaries, informational films, films for the specific needs of government departments, and films designed for particular social purposes. The Board strives to serve as innovator of new cinema techniques, as well as a recorder of the nation's day-to-day evolution. Thus, new needs and greater public sensitivity have encouraged the Board's film-makers to explore new film styles and to experiment in new areas of film production, and there have been corresponding new departures in the distribution and use of films as more people turn to films as a matter of course for information and assistance in many activities.

In Canada, the Board's productions are distributed through community outlets, schools and universities, television stations, theatres and commercial sales. In all these areas annual figures show a steady and, in some instances, a marked increase. A large part of the 16mm community film audience is reached through film libraries, film councils and special-interest groups. The growing demand for films can be attributed to the wide range of subject matter available; the Board's catalogue lists 60 main and sub-categories. Original films are shown regularly over English- and French-language television networks in Canada as well as in theatres. During 1973-74 over 17,000 commercial bookings were made for NFB's theatrical short films. There were also almost 400,000 screenings of films from NFB's 27 regional libraries.