

Timeline of Canadian Federal Cultural Policy Milestones

1849 to 2005



September 2006

Acknowledgements

Timeline compiled by M. Sharon Jeannotte for the Canadian Cultural Observatory

The *Timeline of Canadian Federal Cultural Milestones* presents over 150 years of key Canadian federal legislation, policy decisions, reports, programs and federal management of culture categorized into nine sub-themes: Cultural Policy, Arts, Broadcasting, Copyright, Digital Media, Film and Video, Museums and Heritage, Publishing, and Sound Recording.

Author's Introduction:

All cultural policy is rooted in both place and time, and this cultural policy timeline is intended to provide a broad overview of the federal government's cultural interventions in Canada over more than a century and a half. It is designed to respond, in part, to George Santayana's dictum that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." On the other hand, it is not intended to cover cultural policy developments at other levels of government in Canada (the provincial and the municipal) or within the private and non-profit sectors. As such, the taxonomy for this project reflects the institutional categories within which federal cultural policies evolved over this period.

Canadian federal government intervention in the cultural sector began modestly with the postal subsidy for newspapers, magazines and books in 1849, and in the years prior to the 1920s was largely limited to heritage institutions, such as the Public Archives, and the regulation of wireless communications. Starting in the 1920s and 1930s, however, the range of federal government cultural policy interventions both expanded and intensified to include broadcasting, copyright policy, the arts and film. By the 1940s, the federal government was considering its cultural policies in the context of the country's postwar plans for reconstruction, but it was not until the 1950s that major federal initiatives, such as the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences, the Canada Council, the National Library and the Royal Commission on Broadcasting were launched.

The 1960s witnessed the consolidation of the national museums and the establishment of new federal cultural institutions, such as the National Arts Centre, as well as the creation of a *de facto* department of culture in the form of the Department of the Secretary of State. In the 1970s, the federal government began to expand its definition of "culture" to include

bilingualism, biculturalism and multiculturalism. It also intensified its focus on support for Canadian cultural content and on the status of the artist, as well as taking the first steps to understand the impact of digital technologies on culture and society.

By the 1980s, federal responsibility for cultural policy had been transferred, at least partially, to the Minister of Communications and efforts began to expand broadcasting and communications to Aboriginal communities in Northern Canada. During this period, a number of major cultural policy reviews were also launched including, most notably, the Federal Cultural Policy Review Committee. Several federal museums also moved into new buildings, including the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography.

The 1990s were years of major change in federal cultural policy. Most of the legislation and responsibilities for cultural policy were transferred to the new Department of Canadian Heritage in 1993, and during this period the cultural sector experienced deep budget cuts as a result of a federal government-wide Program Review. At the same time, international pressures prompted major reviews of culture and trade and the establishment of culture as the “third pillar” of foreign policy. New technologies were also beginning to have a significant impact on the cultural sector, leading to changes in the *Copyright Act*, the *Broadcasting Act*, and licensing by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) of various new broadcasting services.

In the first decade of the new century, federal cultural policies continued to grapple with the challenges of technological change, while dealing with new demands on both the domestic and international scene. Sharing of cultural content on the internet led to further re-examination of the *Copyright Act*, even as the federal government itself became directly involved in the delivery of digital content through collaborative websites such as Culture.ca, Culturescope.ca and the Virtual Museum of Canada. A major new cultural investment program, *Tomorrow Starts Today*, was announced in 2001 to respond to increases in cultural demand in Canada, while on the international front, Canada became a leader in the development of the new UNESCO *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions*.

As we move into the second half of the 2000 decade, the Canadian Cultural Observatory will continue to update this Timeline and to maintain it as a tool for informing both the cultural policy and research community and the general public.

M. Sharon Jeannotte
May 2007

Timeline of Canadian Federal Cultural Policy Milestones – 1849 to 2005

1800s	<p>1849 – Post Office Act stipulates lower rates for newspapers, magazines and books (Postal Subsidy is reaffirmed in 1875 <i>Postal Act</i>)</p> <p>1873 – Public Archives of Canada established</p> <p>1880 – National Gallery of Canada established</p>
1900s	<p>1900 – A Canadian, Reginald Fessenden, makes the first wireless radio broadcast</p> <p>1905 – Wireless Telegraph Act passed.</p>
1910s	<p>1918 – Department of Naval Service, under the <i>Radiotelegraph Act</i>, issues the first broadcasting licence to a Montreal radio station</p> <p>1919 – Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada established</p>
1920s	<p>Broadcasting</p> <p>1923 – Canadian National Railways begins radio broadcasting on its trains</p> <p>1923 – <i>Radiotelegraph Act</i> amended to give only British subjects the right to apply for broadcasting licences</p> <p>1927 – Federal Radio Commission established (first broadcast regulator)</p> <p>1928 – Royal Commission on Radio Broadcasting (Aird Commission) established</p> <p>1929 – Aird Commission report recommends the establishment of a public broadcaster</p> <p>Copyright</p> <p>1924 – Copyright Act comes into force</p> <p>1928 – Canada signs the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works</p> <p>Museums and Heritage</p> <p>1927 – Museum of the Geological Survey becomes the National Museum of Canada</p>
1930s	<p>Arts</p> <p>1937 – Governor General’s Literary Awards established</p> <p>Broadcasting</p> <p>1932 – <i>Broadcasting Act</i> creates the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Corporation (CRBC) as both public broadcaster and regulator</p> <p>1936 – Canadian Broadcasting Act is passed creating the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to replace the CRBC</p> <p>Film</p> <p>1939 – National Film Board (NFB) established</p>

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1940s	<p>Cultural Policy 1944 – Federation of Canadian Artists presents the Artists’ Brief to the House of Commons Special Committee on Reconstruction and Re-establishment (Turgeon Committee) recommending government action on behalf of the arts 1947 – Canadian Citizenship Act passed 1949 – Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences (Massey-Lévesque) established</p> <p>Museums and Heritage 1942 – Canadian War Museum established</p>
1950s	<p>Cultural Policy 1951 – The Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences recommends the creation of a national arts funding organization and a national library 1957 – Canada Council Act passes creating the Canada Council responsible for funding the humanities, arts and social sciences</p> <p>Broadcasting 1952 – CBC launches its television service 1955 – Royal Commission on Broadcasting (Fowler Commission) established 1957 – Royal Commission on Broadcasting recommends new <i>Broadcasting Act</i> 1958 – New <i>Broadcasting Act</i> is passed, transferring the regulatory role of the CBC to a new Board of Broadcast Governors and establishing the first Canadian content quotas 1958 – CBC creates its Northern Service and begins to receive annual parliamentary appropriations</p> <p>Film 1950 – National Film Act passes, expanding the National Film Board’s mandate</p> <p>Museums and Heritage 1953 – National Library Act is passed 1953 – Historic Sites and Monuments Act is passed</p>
1960s	<p>Cultural Policy 1963 – Secretary of State assumes responsibility for culture and the cultural agencies 1963 – Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism (Laurendeau-Dunton Commission) established. (Final report issued in six volumes – 1967-1970) (a wiki) 1965 – House of Commons Standing Committee on Culture established</p>

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- 1965 – Department of Secretary of State recommends a cultural policy for Canada
- 1965 – Centennial Commission provides funding for cultural infrastructure and arts festivals in preparation for [Canada's centennial celebration](#) in 1967
- 1968 – *Criminal Code* [amended](#) to allow federal and provincial governments to participate in lotteries
- 1969 – [Official Languages Act](#) passed
- 1969 – Federal Cabinet Committee on Culture and Information established

Arts

- 1965 – [Indian Art Centre](#) established ([Department of Indian and Northern Affairs](#))
- 1966 – [National Arts Centre Act](#) passes ([National Arts Centre](#) opens in 1969)

Broadcasting

1960s
(cont'd)

- 1964 – Fowler Committee on Broadcasting established to examine the dominance of foreign programming in the Canadian broadcasting system
- 1965 – Fowler Committee recommends broadcasting regulatory body with more powers
- 1966 – Federal White Paper on Broadcasting is published
- 1968 – Federal White Paper on Satellite Communications is published
- 1968 – New [Broadcasting Act](#) passes, [establishing the Canadian Radio Television Commission](#) (CRTC) to take over broadcasting regulation from the Board of Broadcast Governors and confirming the [CBC's](#) mandate as a national broadcaster

Film

- 1964 – Firestone Committee on the Film Industry established
- 1967 – Canadian Film Development Corporation (now Telefilm Canada) [established](#) as recommended by Firestone Committee

Museums and Heritage

- 1960 – [National Aviation Museum](#) opens
- 1967 – [National Museum of Science and Technology](#) established
- 1968 – [National Museums of Canada Act](#) passes creating a corporation to run the four national museums ([National Gallery of Canada](#), [Museum of Man \(now the Canadian Museum of Civilization\)](#), [Museum of Nature](#) (now the Canadian Museum of Nature), [Science and Technology Museum](#) (now the Canadian Science and Technology Museum))
- 1968 – National Historic Sites Policy announced

Timeline of Canadian Federal Cultural Policy Milestones – 1849 to 2005

1960s (cont'd.)	<p>Publishing</p> <p>1960 – Royal Commission on Publications (O’Leary Commission) established</p> <p>1961 – Royal Commission on Publications recommends that advertising costs for split-run magazines be made non-deductible under the <i>Income Tax Act</i></p> <p>1964 – Income Tax Act amended to restrict tax deductions for advertising expenses to advertising in Canadian magazines</p>
1970s	<p>Cultural Policy</p> <p>1970 – Secretary of State announces a federal cultural policy with the objectives of democratization, decentralization, pluralism, federal-provincial cooperation and international cooperation</p> <p>1971 – Federal government responds to the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, establishing a federal multiculturalism policy within a bilingual framework</p> <p>1972 – Multiculturalism Directorate established within the Department of the Secretary of State</p> <p>1973 – Culture Statistics Program at Statistics Canada established</p> <p>1974 – Secretary of State establishes a capital grants program for cultural facilities</p> <p>1976 – Canada accedes to the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</p> <p>Arts</p> <p>1976 – First national lottery is held to finance the Montreal Olympic Games</p> <p>1978 – Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada established, taking over funding of scholarly research from the Canada Council</p> <p>1979 – Federal government withdraws from the lottery field, ceding control to the provinces</p> <p>1979 – International Cultural Relations Bureau established at the Department of External Affairs</p> <p>Arts</p> <p>1977 – Disney Report on <i>Federal Tax Issues of Concern to the Arts Community in Canada</i> submitted to the Secretary of State</p> <p>Broadcasting</p> <p>1971 – CRTC introduces Canadian content requirements in broadcasting</p> <p>1976 – Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission Act passes, establishing the CRTC as the regulatory body for both broadcasting and telecommunications</p> <p>Copyright</p> <p>1970 – Canada becomes a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)</p>

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Digital Media

1971 – Department of Communications publishes Instant World, predicting that the telecommunications system will some day permit “the transmission of information in any form, making the contents of data banks and the processing power of computers commonly and readily available.” (p. 161)

Film and Video

1972 – Federal Film Policy announced by Secretary of State, providing additional funding for the Canada Council and for regional production by the National Film Board

1974 – Capital Cost Allowance extended to film production, allowing Canadians to deduct 100% of investments in Canadian films

1970s

Museums and Heritage

(cont’d)

1972 – National Museums Policy announced by Secretary of State, including creation of the Museums Assistance Program, the Canadian Conservation Institute and the National Inventory (now the Canadian Heritage Information Network)

1977 – Cultural Property Export and Import Control Act passes and the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board and the Movable Cultural Property Program are established

Publishing

1970 – Special Senate Committee on the Mass Media (Davey Committee) recommends an end to tax loophole allowing Canadian advertisers to claim advertising expenses in *Time* and *Reader’s Digest* (two split-run magazines)

1972 – Federal Book Publishing Policy provides funding for the Canada Council to assist in the promotion and production of books

1977 – Bill C-58 passes, amending the *Income Tax Act* to remove the special tax treatment accorded to *Time* and *Reader’s Digest*

1979 – Canadian Book Publishing Industry Development Program established within the Department of the Secretary of State to provide financial assistance to Canadian publishers

Cultural Policy

1980 – Responsibility for cultural affairs transferred from the Secretary of State to the Minister of Communications

1980s

1980 – First conference of federal and provincial ministers responsible for culture is held

1980 – Federal Cultural Policy Review Committee (Applebaum-Hébert) established

1981 – Special Program of Cultural Initiatives established within the Department of Communications

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1982 – [Applebaum-Hébert](#) Committee submits report recommending sweeping changes to the CBC, the NFB, the Canada Council and Telefilm (most recommendations are not adopted)

1984 – Special Parliamentary Committee on Visible Minorities publishes *Equality Now!*

1985 – House of Commons Standing Committee on Multiculturalism created

Arts

1980 – Canada signs the [UNESCO](#) recommendation on the [Status of the Artist](#) (Belgrade recommendation)

1984 – *The Taxation of Visual and Performing Artists and Writers* report released by a sub-committee of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Communications and Culture

1986 – *Report of the Task Force on the Status of the Artist* ([Siren-Gélinas](#)) released, recommending changes to the *Income Tax Act*, the *Copyright Act* and Unemployment Insurance Program to provide more financial security for artists

1986 – Report on *Funding the Arts in Canada to the Year 2000* released by the Task Force on the Funding of the Arts (Bovey) recommending 5% annual increase in federal arts funding, as well as recommendations on tax policy and private sector support

1980s
(cont'd.)

1986 – [Public Lending Right Commission](#) established at the Canada Council to provide remuneration for authors for the use of their works in public libraries

1987 – Canadian Advisory Committee on the Status of the Artist established and House of Commons Standing Committee publishes *Taxation of Artists and the Arts*

1989 – House of Commons Standing Committee on Communications and Culture issues a report on *Status of the Artist*

Broadcasting

1983 – Department of Communications (DOC) releases *Towards a New Broadcasting Policy* announcing a broadcasting strategy for Canada emphasizing Canadian content and a greater reliance on independent production

1983 – The Broadcast Program Development Fund is established at [Telefilm](#) Canada to help Canadian producers create high-quality, culturally relevant programming

1983 – [Northern Native Broadcast Access Program](#) established by the Secretary of State

1986 – *Task Force on Broadcasting Policy* ([Caplan-Sauvageau](#)) releases its report endorsing public broadcasting and recommending increased public funding for production of Canadian content

1988 – [Northern Distribution Program](#) is established by Secretary of State to fund the development of northern and Aboriginal programming by supporting Television Northern Canada

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Copyright

- 1984 – Federal White Paper on Copyright, *From Gutenberg to Telidon*, is released
- 1985 – Standing Committee on Communications and Culture (Sub-committee on the Revision of Copyright) releases *A Charter of Rights for Creators*
- 1988 – *Copyright Act* amended to provide for increased moral rights for creators, protection of choreographic works and computer programs, and increased sanctions for copyright infringement
- 1988 – CanCopy ([Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency](#)) and new [Copyright Board](#) established
- 1989 – [Copyright Act](#) amended to comply with the [1988 Free Trade Agreement](#), requiring cable and satellite companies to pay for the retransmission of distant broadcast signals

Digital Media

- 1987 – Department of Communications publishes *Communications for the Twenty-First Century: Media and Messages in the Information Age*, identifying long-term issues and launching a public discussion on the communications infrastructure

Film and Video

1980s
(cont'd)

- 1981 – Task Force on Film Distribution and Marketing (Cohen Task Force) submits its report
- 1984 – National Film and Video Policy announced by Minister of Communications [recommending transformation of the NFB](#) into a film training centre with no film production responsibilities (NFB rejects a narrowing of its role)
- 1985 – Film Industry Task Force (Raymond-Roth) submits *Canadian Cinema – A Solid Base* to the Minister of Communications analyzing the structural problems of the film industry in production, distribution and exhibition
- 1986 – [Feature Film Fund](#) established at [Telefilm](#) Canada to promote the production and distribution of Canadian films
- 1986 – *Task Force on the Non-Theatrical Film Industry* (Jensen-Macerola) releases its report, recommending more support for this segment of the industry
- 1988 – [Canadian Non-Theatrical Film and Video Fund](#) established
- 1988 – Federal government introduces a bill on the importation of films and videos (not passed)
- 1988 – New federal guidelines limiting film distribution rights for foreign distributors introduced

Museums and Heritage

- 1985 – [Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography](#) opens
- 1988 – New [National Gallery of Canada](#) building opens

Timeline of Canadian Federal Cultural Policy Milestones – 1849 to 2005

1980s (cont'd)	<p>1988 – Minister of Communications releases discussion paper on <i>Federal Archaeological Heritage Protection and Management</i></p> <p>1988 – Minister of Communications releases discussion paper <i>Challenges and Choices – Federal policy and program proposals for Canadian Museums</i></p> <p>1989 – New Canadian Museum of Civilization building opens</p> <p>Publishing</p> <p>1985 – Baie-Comeau Policy implemented, revising the <i>Investment Canada Act</i> to require divestment within two years by any foreign investor acquiring a Canadian book publishing company</p> <p>1986 – Book Publishing Industry Development Program replaces the Canadian Book Publishing Development Program</p> <p>1989 – Postal Subsidy budget decreased by 50%</p> <p>Sound Recording</p> <p>1986 – Sound Recording Development Program established at DOC, providing funding to FACTOR and MusicAction to support the Canadian music industry</p>
1990s	<p>Cultural Policy</p> <p>1990 – Business Development Bank of Canada establishes the Cultural Industries Development Fund to support entrepreneurs in book and magazine publishing, sound recording, film and video production, and multimedia</p> <p>1991 – Task Force on Professional Training for the Cultural Sector in Canada (White-Rossignol) releases its report, <i>Art is never a given</i></p> <p>1991 – Legislation establishing a Department of Multiculturalism and Citizenship passes</p> <p>1992 – National Sectoral Council for Culture (later renamed the Cultural Human Resources Council) established</p> <p>1992 – Standing Committee on Communications and Culture releases its report <i>The Ties That Bind</i> recommending a 5% increase in funding for the arts and stable funding for the Canada Council and the CBC</p> <p>1993 – Department of Communications and Department of Multiculturalism and Citizenship disbanded and responsibilities transferred to newly-created Department of Canadian Heritage (along with responsibility for national parks, amateur sport, official languages, off-reserve Aboriginal programs and citizen participation)</p> <p>1994 – Canada joins the World Trade Organization and ratifies the Uruguay Round of negotiations on the</p>

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1990s
(cont'd)

- General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)* which exempts cultural services (but not goods) and film and television co-production treaties
- 1994 – Special Joint Committee on Reviewing Canadian Foreign Policy recommends that culture become a fundamental component of foreign policy
- 1995 – Federal government defines culture as the “third pillar” of foreign policy
- 1995 – Federal government Program Review results in deep cuts to the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Portfolio agencies
- 1996 – Multiculturalism Program renewed and [Canadian Race Relations Foundation](#) created
- 1996 – Mandate Review Committee ([Juneau](#)) releases its report *Making Our Voices Heard* recommending changes in the mandates and financing of the CBC, Telefilm Canada and the National Film Board
- 1998 – [International Network on Cultural Policy](#), consisting of culture ministers from various countries, established by Canada
- 1999 – Cultural Industries Sectoral Advisory Group on International Trade (SAGIT) releases [New Strategies for Culture and Trade: Canadian Culture in a Global World](#), setting out options for cultural trade policy – either taking culture “off the table” at trade negotiations or negotiating a new international instrument to address cultural diversity
- 1999 – Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage releases *A Sense of Place, A Sense of Being* ([Lincoln Report](#)) outlining demographic and technological challenges and reaffirming the importance of the federal role in support of culture
- Arts**
- 1991 – Changes to the *Income Tax Act* allow national arts services organizations to receive charitable donations
- 1992 – [Status of the Artist Act](#) passes, recognizing artists’ rights to freedom of expression and association and establishing the Canadian Council on the Status of the Artist and the Canadian Artists and Producers Professional Relations Tribunal
- 1992 – *Recommendations of the Advisory Committee to the Canada Council for Racial Equality in the Arts* (Kelly report) submitted to the Canada Council
- 1997 – [National Arts Training Contribution Program](#) established to provide stable funding for national cultural training organizations
- 1998 – Canada Council’s parliamentary appropriation [increased by \\$25 million annually for the next five years](#)

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1990s
(cont'd)

Broadcasting

1990 – [CBC closes eleven of its regional stations due to budget cuts](#)

1991 – [Broadcasting Act, 1991](#) passed, implementing recommendations from Caplan-Sauvageau Task Force regulating Canadian content on cable, broadening the CBC 's mandate and giving the [federal Cabinet a greater role in CRTC decision making](#)

1991 – CRTC licenses [Television Northern Canada](#)

1995 – President of the CBC resigns over Program Review budget cuts of \$300 million over three years

1995 – CRTC [issues the first two licences](#) for direct to home satellite broadcasting service

1996 – CRTC [licenses 23 new Canadian specialty and pay TV channels](#)

1996 – Canada Television and Cable Production Fund ([CTCPF](#)) established to finance Canadian television programs

1998 – [Canadian Television Fund](#) established as independent, non-profit corporation (replacing the CTCPF)

1999 – [CRTC licenses](#) the [Aboriginal Peoples Network](#)

1999 – CRTC releases [Building on Success – A Policy Framework for Canadian Television](#), focusing on increasing the broadcasting of Canadian programming during peak viewing times

Copyright

1993 – [Copyright Act is amended](#) to define transmitter obligations (including cable and telecommunications firms)

1994 – [Copyright Act is amended](#) to bring it in line with North American Free Trade Treaty ([NAFTA](#)) provisions [requiring a rental right for sound recordings and computer programs and increased protection against importation of pirated works](#)

1996 – Under the provisions of the [World Trade Organization](#) agreement, [copyright protection](#) is provided against bootlegged audio recordings and unauthorized live transmission of performances

1997 – [Copyright Act is amended](#) to protect private copying, impose a levy on blank audio media and extend rights to producers and performers of sound recordings

1997 – Canada signs the [World Intellectual Property Organization treaties on copyright](#) in the new communications environment

1998 – Canada [amends Copyright Act](#) to comply with the 1961 [Rome Convention](#) (*International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organisations*) and the 1971 [Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works](#)

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Digital Media

- 1992 – Department of Communications publishes *New Media, New Choices* outlining its strategy for developing an information policy consistent with Canadian economic, social and cultural values
- 1997 – Information Highway Advisory Council releases its final report [Preparing Canada for a Digital World](#), recommending that a production tax credit and a fund be established to support multimedia production industry
- 1998 – Multimedia Fund established at Telefilm Canada to support the production, distribution and marketing of Canadian multimedia products (renamed the [Canada New Media Fund](#) in 2001)
- 1999 – CRTC releases [Report on New Media](#), stating that the CRTC will not attempt to regulate the Internet

Film and Video

- 1991 – [Canadian Independent Film and Video Fund](#) established with funding from [Telefilm](#) and the [NFB](#) to replace funding for non-theatrical film and video production that had fallen victim to budget cuts
- 1994 – [Canadian Film or Video Tax Credit](#) implemented, replacing the Capital Cost Allowance and providing a refundable tax credit of up to 12% on Canadian productions
- 1998 – Polygram Filmed Entertainment [challenges Canada's 1988 foreign investment guidelines for film distribution in the WTO](#)
- 1998 – Minister of Canadian Heritage initiates [A Review of Canadian Feature Film Policy](#)

1990s
(cont'd)

Museums and Heritage

- 1990 – Minister of Communications releases new *Canadian Museum Policy* announcing increased funding for the Museum Assistance Program and structural changes to the national museums
- 1990 – [Museums Act](#) passes making the [National Gallery of Canada](#), the [Canadian Museum of Civilization](#), the [Canadian Museum of Nature](#), and the [National Museum of Science and Technology](#) (and their affiliates) separate, independent Crown corporations
- 1991 – *Task Force on Military History and Museum Collections in Canada* (Southam-Vaugeois) releases its report
- 1992 – Task Force on Museums and First Peoples (Hill-Nicks) issues its report, [Turning the Page: Forging New Partnerships Between Museums and First Peoples](#)
- 1992 – Opening of the [Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography](#)
- 1995 – [National Library Act](#) amended to make legal deposit more efficient
- 1999 – [Canada Travelling Exhibitions Indemnification Program](#) established, allowing the federal government to assume financial responsibility for loss or damage of objects in eligible travelling exhibitions

Timeline of Canadian Federal Cultural Policy Milestones – 1849 to 2005

<p>1990s (cont'd)</p>	<p>1999 – Parks Canada ceases to be part of the Department of Canadian Heritage and becomes a special service agency within the Canadian Heritage Portfolio</p> <p>Publishing</p> <p>1993 – Publications Distribution Assistance Program established to help offset cuts to Postal Subsidy</p> <p>1994 – Task Force on the Canadian Magazine Industry releases its report, <i>A Question of Balance</i>, recommending a tax on split run periodicals such as <i>Sports Illustrated</i> and the preservation of the Postal Subsidy</p> <p>1995 – Excise Tax Act amended, imposing an 80% tax on advertising in split-run periodicals</p> <p>1997 – Publications Assistance Program established, replacing Postal Subsidy by providing distribution assistance for eligible Canadian publications</p> <p>1997 – United States challenges Canada's use of the Excise Tax Act against split-run periodicals in the World Trade Organization (WTO)– Canada appeals</p> <p>1997 – WTO rules against Canada's appeal as inconsistent with GATT rules and overturns previous decision allowing the use of Postal Subsidy for periodicals</p> <p>1998 – Loan Program for Book Publishers established (but closed in 2002)</p> <p>1999 – Foreign Publishers Advertising Services Act passes in response to the WTO magazine decision, limiting amount of Canadian advertising allowed in split-run periodicals</p> <p>Sound Recording</p> <p>1996 – Task Force on the Future of the Canadian Music Industry releases its report</p>
<p>2000s</p>	<p>Cultural Policy</p> <p>2000 – Federal government responds to <i>A Sense of Place, A Sense of Being</i>, agreeing with most of its recommendations</p> <p>2001 – Prime Minister and Minister of Canadian Heritage announce Tomorrow Starts Today, a \$560 million program of cultural investments over three years</p> <p>2003 – International Network on Cultural Policy (INCP) group of cultural ministers initiates discussions with UNESCO to launch the process of developing a Convention on cultural diversity</p> <p>2003 – UNESCO 32nd General Conference calls for a preliminary report and draft Convention on cultural diversity by 2005</p> <p>2004 – Canada is elected Rapporteur for the intergovernmental process developing the preliminary draft Convention</p> <p>2004 – Tomorrow Starts Today initiative extended for one more year (2005-06)</p>

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- 2005 – *Tomorrow Starts Today* initiative extended for four more years (2006-07 to 2009-10)
2005 – UNESCO 33rd General Conference adopts *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*, and Canada is the first country to accept it

Arts

- 2000 – Canada Council hosts the World Summit on Arts and Culture, leading to the creation of the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA)
2001 – Arts Presentation Canada Program established to strengthen the performing arts
2001 – Cultural Spaces Program established to support arts and heritage capital projects
2001 – Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Program established to strengthen organizational effectiveness and build capacity of arts and heritage organizations
2002 – Cultural Capitals of Canada Program established to recognize and support arts and culture activities in Canadian municipalities

2000s (cont'd)

Broadcasting

- 2002 – Department of Canadian Heritage releases discussion paper *Canadian Content for the 21st Century* and invites submissions from film and television producers
2003 – CRTC publishes a regulatory framework to guide the transition to digital over-the-air television
2003 – Department of Canadian Heritage releases *Canadian Content in the 21st Century in Film and Television Productions: A Matter of Cultural Identity* (Macerola Report) addressing the requirements that must be satisfied for a film or television production to be considered Canadian content
2003 – Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage releases *Our Cultural Sovereignty: The Second Century of Canadian Broadcasting* (Lincoln Report)
2003 – Federal government responds to *Our Cultural Sovereignty: The Second Century of Canadian Broadcasting*, pledging to improve the synergy and complementarities among the many federal programs and agencies supporting the creation of Canadian program content
2005 – CRTC approves three subscription radio licences and establishes a licensing framework for satellite subscription radio services

Copyright

- 2001 – A *Framework for Copyright Reform* is released, along with two consultation papers, *Consultation Paper on the Application of the Copyright Act's Compulsory Retransmission Licence to the Internet* and *Consultation Paper on Digital Copyright Issues*

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- 2003 – Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage begins its review of copyright issues and asks Ministers of Canadian Heritage and Industry to provide a bill implementing the 1996 WIPO [Copyright](#) and [Performance and Phonogram treaties](#)
- 2004 – Ministers provide an interim report to the Standing Committee addressing a [number of issues](#), including the WIPO treaties, the private copying regime, photographic works, internet service providers liability, use of internet for educational purposes, technology-enhanced learning and inter-library loans
- 2005 – Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister of Industry introduce bill to [amend the Copyright Act](#) to implement the 1996 WIPO treaties, clarify liability for internet service providers, facilitate the use of new technologies for educational purposes and address the treatment of photographic works (Bill dies on Order Paper when federal election is called)

2000s (cont'd)

Digital Media

- 2001 – Industry Canada publishes the report of the National Broadband Task Force, [The New National Dream: Networking the Nation for Broadband Access](#), recommending that all Canadian communities have broadband access by 2004
- 2002 – Department of Canadian Heritage establishes the [Canadian Culture Online Program](#) which provides funding to produce Canadian new media and internet content, increase access and build new audiences for Canadian digital content
- 2003 – Canadian Heritage launches two web portals – [Culture.ca](#), which features material on Canada's cultural life, and [Culturescope.ca](#), which features research on cultural policy and development

Film and Video

- 2000 – Canadian feature film policy, [From Script to Screen](#), is announced, creating a new [Canada Feature Film Fund](#) administered by Telefilm Canada

Museums and Heritage

- 2001 – [Portrait Gallery of Canada](#) announced
- 2001 – [Virtual Museum of Canada](#) launched
- 2001 – [Cultural Spaces Program](#) established to support arts and heritage capital projects
- 2001 – [Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Program](#) established to strengthen organizational effectiveness and build capacity of arts and heritage organizations
- 2002 – Department of Canadian Heritage begins A [Dialogue on Heritage in the 21st Century](#) to consult with Canadians on new directions for heritage policy

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2003 – [Parks Canada](#) is [moved](#) from the Canadian Heritage Portfolio to the Environment Portfolio

2004 – The [Act to establish the Library and Archives Canada](#) comes into force, repealing the *National Archives Act* and the *National Library Act* and merging the two agencies

2005 – New [Canadian War Museum](#) building opens

2005 – Department of Canadian Heritage consults with Canadians and the museum community [toward the development of new directions for federal museum policy](#)

2000s

(cont'd)

Publishing

2000 – [Canada Magazine Fund](#) established, supporting content and business development of Canadian magazine industry

2000 – [Income Tax Act](#) amended to conform with WTO obligations on the tax deductibility of magazine advertising

Sound Recording

2001 – Canadian Sound Recording Policy [From Creators to Audience](#) is announced, establishing the [Canada Music Fund](#), a series of eight programs to support diversity, capacity, excellence and innovation in the sound recording industry