

Preamble

Canada was at the forefront of efforts leading to the adoption and effective implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. It was the first country to ratify the agreement and hosted the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Convention Committee. Canada has also been, to date, one of the most important contributors to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD).

Canada identifies with the objectives and principles of the Convention due to its pursuit of similar, national goals. Over several decades, Canada has equipped itself with a vast “ecosystem” of measures, policies and legislation that contributes to the creation of an environment supportive of the expression of cultural diversity within its territory. The ecosystem recognizes the social and economic value of cultural content and is constantly evolving to face new challenges, such as the transition to digital platforms.

Implemented at various governmental levels, this ecosystem contains measures of all types (policies, laws, regulations, subvention programs, tax credits, etc.) that complement one another and provide support at each stage of cultural expression (creation, production, distribution, dissemination and participation). By ensuring the continued existence of Canadian cultural products and making them accessible to the public, the system enriches the lives of its citizens while promoting mutually beneficial exchanges with the rest of the world.

To comply with operational directives on the quadrennial report, only the general framework of the Canadian ecosystem and a small sampling of the measures it contains are included in this report. This sampling was established by the Department of Canadian Heritage in cooperation with the provincial and territorial departments responsible for cultural matters. The main objective of the effort is to share with other Parties in the Convention some of the best practices developed in Canada for each of the themes proposed in the operational directives.

Further information and additional references, both for the measures presented in the document and others that could not be included, are available in the annexes. These

include the annexes prepared by the Government of Quebec to report on the implementation of the Convention within its territory. As a promoter and partner of the Convention since the very beginning, Quebec plays a particularly active role in the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions in the country and abroad. It is also an important contributor to the IFCD, with two contributions to date. The governments of Canada and Quebec also work in close cooperation on all aspects of the implementation of the Convention in the spirit of the Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec concerning UNESCO. Signed in 2006, the agreement gives the Government of Quebec the right to be represented, when it so wishes, as a full member of all Canadian Delegations for UNESCO proceedings, meetings, and conferences. The Quebec annexes of the current report reflect this close cooperation and underline the enriching experience of Convention implementation.

The Government of Canada is proud to present this first quadrennial report. It hopes that this document will serve as a starting point for fruitful exchanges and is available as needed to respond to any requests for further information from the Secretariat and other States Parties.