



The Culture in the Schools Program 2007-2008

Québec 

Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport
Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine



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Introduction

The Ministère de la Culture et des Communications (MCC) and the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) have been partners for the past 20 years. Their collaboration became progressively more visible with the adoption of Québec's cultural policy in 1992, the signing of a memorandum of understanding in 1997 and the declaration "Pour les jeunes, l'école et la culture" in 2000.

This partnership is based among other things on the view that schools are places of culture, and that culture is a source of knowledge and learning. In this sense, the education reform and the Québec Education Program emphasize the cultural aspect of every subject and redefine the role of teachers as cultural mediators, both at the primary and secondary school levels.

The Culture in the Schools Program, created in 2004, is designed to encourage teachers, together with artists, writers and professional cultural organizations, to carry out cultural activities in keeping with the spirit of the education reform, and to offer schools a window on the world. The Program also supports regional projects, particularly those that tie in with the implementation of a school board's cultural policy.

Through this Program, schools are encouraged to network with resources in the field of culture and to take advantage of the financial resources available, so that they can take concrete action to integrate the cultural dimension in a harmonious and coherent way with the other learning activities provided for their students.

Program objectives

The general objective of the Culture in the Schools Program is to produce culturally engaged citizens by increasing students' exposure to cultural experiences through the joint efforts of teachers and the artists, writers and professional cultural organizations listed in the *Répertoire de ressources culture-éducation*.

The Répertoire contains information about hundreds of artists, writers and cultural organizations offering activities designed for young people in preschool, elementary school and secondary school, as well as information about the education community. Available in electronic format only, the Répertoire is published every two years.

More specifically, the Program is designed to:

- ensure that the cultural dimension is integrated into classroom and school activities through the collaborative efforts of teachers, in accordance with the Québec Education Program
- offer students a range of cultural experiences that will have a positive impact on their learning and allow them to actively develop competencies based on open-mindedness, curiosity, critical judgment and aesthetic appreciation
- help students develop an interest in visiting professional cultural venues
- promote concerted action among schools, cultural organizations and municipalities, while taking regional realities into account

- promote careers in the fields of art and culture.

Target schools

The Program targets all public and private French and English schools offering preschool, elementary and secondary education (youth sector).

Cultural activities supported by the program

Cultural activities supported by the *Culture in Schools* Program are designed and carried out by artists, writers and professional cultural organizations, in conjunction with teaching staff. They include three phases:

- **preparation phase**, which includes one or more activities in the classroom or at a cultural venue. This phase helps the students acquire a frame of reference for the next phase
- **implementation phase**, which introduces the students to one or more cultural experiences, i.e. workshops with artists or writers, or outings to professional cultural venues (e.g. museums, performance venues for young audiences)
- **transfer-of-learning phase**, which allows students to reflect on the knowledge acquired from the various cultural experiences they were introduced to during the two earlier phases, and to make connections with other learning situations in the classroom.

Role of cultural and school partners

The Program encourages diversity in the cultural activities offered to students throughout their education. Artists, writers and professional cultural organizations are invited to share their creative ideas with students by presenting various artworks and by having students discover professions related to arts and culture in a proactive and participatory manner.

Artists listed in the *Répertoire de ressources culture-éducation* work in a sector of activity relating to one of the following four areas: the performing arts; the visual arts; cinema, video, television and radio; arts and crafts.

Writers are identified by literary genre: comic books, fairy tales, essays, youth literature, short stories, poetry, novels and other longer narrative forms, and drama.

Cultural organizations come essentially from the following fields: performing arts; visual arts; cultural associations; cinema, media and new technologies; municipal cultural outlets; literature and libraries; heritage, history and museology.

Thus, students take part in **creative workshops** that bring them into contact with the creative ideas of invited **artists**, their means of expression and their language. It is important to keep in mind that these practical workshops **are not** shows or workshops or combinations thereof, nor do they constitute lectures, courses or demonstrations.

During activities with **writers**, students can exchange their views on the world of creativity and research, on language and literature, or on various other aspects of the profession. They can also take part in writing workshops.

As with artists and writers, professional **cultural organizations** can discuss the various production or distribution processes with students, thus helping them to develop:

- critical thinking and aesthetic awareness
- a better understanding of themselves and others
- stronger self-esteem.

These points are also emphasized in the Québec Education Program. The education reform is based on having students take a more active role in their learning. This approach helps them to see connections between subjects and targets the acquisition of two types of competencies: subject-specific and cross-curricular (the latter cut across subject areas).

It is the teacher's role to make the relevant connections between the Québec Education Program and the activities supported by the Culture in the Schools Program, particularly with respect to the preparation and transfer-of-learning phases.

Program management

The Culture in the Schools Program is managed by a regional committee that includes one representative from a regional office of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport and one from a regional office of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

This Regional Management Committee, in conjunction with a working team from the central offices of both ministries, is responsible for implementing the Program, monitoring it at each stage and managing the budget for the region.

Conditions of eligibility

Activity projects constitute a set of cultural and educational activities that take place at school or during cultural outings. They include the preparation and transfer-of-learning phases. Such activities must be briefly described on the Cultural Activities Project Submission Form.

To be eligible, projects must meet all of the following conditions:

1. Be the initiative of a teacher or group of teachers, an artist, a writer, a school board or a professional cultural organization
2. Be presented by a school, a group of schools or a school board
3. Include preparatory activities and transfer-of-learning activities related to the proposed activity
4. Involve active participation on the part of students, school and cultural resources, as well as financial contributions from various partners
5. Involve the teacher's active participation in all three phases of the project: preparation, implementation and transfer of learning
6. Be presented using the Cultural Activities Project Submission Form, which must be duly signed by the principals of the schools involved and the person responsible for each project
7. Be incorporated into the institution's regular timetable for the **2007-2008** school year.

Ineligible projects:

- Extracurricular activities
- Exchange trips and practicums
- Fundraising activities

Financial assistance and allowable expenses

Depending on the region involved and the resources available, financial assistance provided under the Culture in the Schools Program may cover up to 75 per cent of allowable expenses. Special conditions may be set by the Regional Management Committee or the school board, to ensure the fair distribution of available resources.

The financial assistance requested must relate to the following **allowable expenses**:

- The cost of chartered transportation to a recognized venue for a cultural outing (e.g. theatre, museum, historical site, exhibition centre, interpretation centre, etc.)
- The cost of having artists and writers listed in the Répertoire de ressources culture-éducation come to the school: professional fees, transportation costs,

- expenses for specialized materials and equipment, living allowance (note that artists' and writers' professional fees include the cost of preparing activities)
- Costs related to the participation of one or more cultural organizations in the project (e.g. professional fees, transportation costs, expenses for materials and equipment)
 - Costs for equipment rental and for the purchase of perishable materials (other than specialized materials for use by the artists) required for carrying out the activities
 - Preparation and administrative costs (up to 15 per cent of allowable expenses), for example:
 - the expenses incurred by one or more professional cultural organizations in preparing the project
 - costs related to school secretarial and support staff required for the organization of activities
 - stationery, printing and photocopying
 - the cost of providing substitute teachers to allow the teachers concerned to research, organize and supervise cultural outings or cultural events in the school as part of the learning activities already planned.

The following **expenses** are **not** allowable:

- tickets or admission fees for venues where one or more cultural activities are to take place
- fees and expenses related to the presentation of a professional or amateur show at the school or at a cultural venue
- the purchase of non-perishable materials or equipment* (durable and reusable):
 - stage equipment
 - computer hardware
 - musical instruments and music stands
 - cameras, etc.

When a workshop is given by a writer, the Union des écrivaines et des écrivains québécois (UNEQ) is authorized by the MCC to send a number of the author's works to the school free of charge.

- training costs for teaching staff

- taxes.

Expenses related to the participation of artists, writers and professional cultural organizations

This section presents an overview of the method used to determine the total amount to which **artists and writers** participating in the activities are entitled. It also gives general information about the costs involved in having a **cultural organization** (such as a museum or performing arts company) come to the school, and the costs relating to a **cultural outing**.

For a calculation of the eligible expenses for artists and writers, please consult the section *Calculation of Expenses: Artists and Writers* on the Cultural Activities Project Submission Form.

Artists and writers

Fees

- The basic professional fee for an artist or a writer is set at \$325 per day, and **any other amount is non-negotiable**. This fee covers all administrative costs and expenses involved in preparing and carrying out activities.

Transportation costs

- Reimbursement of travel expenses if the distance between the place of residence/business and the school is over **16 km**, or no less than **32 km (return trip)**. The eligible amounts are \$0.41 per km (if travel is by means of the artist's or writer's personal vehicle) or the public transportation or car rental costs currently in effect.

Meal costs

- For travel **less than 12 hours with no accommodation**, the following meal expenses are reimbursable: breakfast (\$10.40), lunch (\$14.30), dinner (\$21.55).

Living allowance (meals and accommodation)

- A daily allowance of \$146.25 to cover living expenses (**meals and accommodation**) may be granted the artist or writer who must travel **more than 24 hours, with an overnight stay**.

Specialized materials

- The artist or writer is entitled to a **maximum** \$100 reimbursement per day to cover the purchase of specialized perishable materials or the rental of specialized materials, as set out in the *Répertoire de ressources culture-éducation*.

Where applicable, taxes must be calculated on the total of eligible expenses.

| Expenses related to the participation of artists or writers | |
|---|---|
| Professional fees: \$325/person/day/ | + |
| Transportation: \$0.41/km for a personal vehicle, or the appropriate public transportation or car rental costs | + |
| Meals: Less than 12 hours with no accommodation: Breakfast (\$10.40), lunch (\$14.30 \$), dinner (\$21.55) | + |
| Living allowance (meals and accommodation): Over 24 hours with accommodation: \$146.25/day | + |
| Specialized materials: Purchase or rental of specialized materials, as set out in the Répertoire: \$100 maximum per day | + |
| Subtotal | = |
| Taxes (if the artist or writer is registered for tax purposes) x 0,12875 | + |
| Payment to artist or writer upon completion of project | = |

Cultural organizations

A school wishing to have a cultural organization participate in a project must involve that organization in the calculation of the costs, and must do so at the planning stage. Professional fees for the personnel involved, transportation costs, administrative expenses costs and the costs of materials and equipment are all allowable expenses. However, the organization's general operating expenses are not allowable.

Cultural outings

The Program covers the cost of chartered transportation when students:

- attend performances offered by professionals recognized by the MCC, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) or the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEQ); these performances must involve the performing arts, i.e. drama, music, song, dance, or the circus arts
- attend educational activities designed specifically for school groups at professional cultural venues, such as museums, exhibition centres, heritage interpretation centres, book exhibitions. etc.

Additional administrative information

The artist or writer (who must be listed in the *Répertoire de ressources culture-éducation* and the person in the school who is in charge of the cultural activity project, communicate directly to discuss the content, duration and procedure of the workshop.

All professional fees and various program-related expenses must be verified **before** drawing up the agreement between the artist or writer and the school.

In addition, arrangements must be made BEFORE submitting the application for financial assistance. It is necessary, therefore, to determine the availability of the artist or writer, plan the activities and calculate the budget before submitting the project to the Regional Management Committee.

There is no limit to the amount of time the artist or writer may spend at the school. For example, an artist or writer may work with the same students several times over the course of a given activity. However, he or she **must not be expected, under any circumstances**, to serve as a substitute for the school's art teacher.

Specific administrative aspects to be taken into consideration

- It is understood that one work day comprises three one-hour periods if the artist or writer meets with three different groups, or two two-hour periods if he or she meets with two groups. Each workshop is given to only one group at a time. The number of students is limited to 35 per group.
- The school must estimate eligible transportation costs, if necessary.
- The school must establish meal costs, if necessary.
- The school must establish the accommodation costs (meals and accommodation), if necessary.
- Remember that transportation costs and living allowances are fixed, which means that one cannot obtain reimbursements for amounts in excess of the set limits by presenting higher receipts. The set amounts (apart from taxes) are covered by the Program.

- The school must indicate the cost of purchasing or renting special materials or equipment, if applicable, as specified in the *Répertoire*.
- The GST and QST must be charged on professional fees and expenses if the artist or writer is registered for taxation purposes. This is determined by checking in the *Répertoire*. Since such taxes are not eligible expenses under the Program, they must be paid by the school or school board.
- The school must determine whether the school board has other administrative requirements to facilitate payment.
- The school must contact the artist or writer as soon as a reply to the application for financial assistance has been received, and must sign the agreement **only after** the project has been approved. If the project is rejected, the school must inform the artist or writer as soon as possible so that he or she can make alternate plans.
- The school must check whether the school board requires an overall invoice for all eligible expenses before making the payment at the end of the activity.
- The school must ensure that the agreement is signed before the workshop is held. **The school principal's signature is required.**
- On the last day of activities, the school administrator gives the artist or writer a cheque for **full payment** of all professional fees and eligible expenses.

Agreement between the artist or writer and the school

There are two copies of this agreement (one for the artist or writer, and the other for the school). This document is very important, since it confirms the terms and conditions of the verbal agreement made between the artist or writer and the school. It is designed to help prevent misunderstandings and is used by the school board to justify payment. The documents entitled Model Agreement Between the Artist and the School and Model Agreement Between the Writer and the School will be useful to draft the agreement.

Books for schools

Schools whose cultural activity projects include a workshop with a writer are entitled to a certain number of the author's works. As soon as the agreement is signed by both parties, the writer must send a copy to the Union des écrivaines et des écrivains québécois (UNEQ), which will in turn send a certain number of the writer's books to the school. Thus, for each day the writer is present in the school, 20 books will be supplied (maximum of **6 titles**). Since these costs are covered by the Program, the school is not required to cover them.

For example, a school that retains the services of a writer for two days

will receive 40 books (maximum of 6 titles).

Only those books **used for workshops subsidized by the Program** will be delivered to the schools (before the workshop is held). The UNEQ is authorized by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications to refuse to send books if it is not given **four weeks' advance notice**.

Project submission

Schools, groups of schools or school boards that wish to present a project must fill out all the sections of the Cultural Activities Project Submission Form, which is available on the Web sites of the MELS, and send copies of the form to the Regional Management Committee for evaluation, in accordance with the committee's terms and conditions. Forms must be signed by the school principal and the project officer. For more information, please contact your Regional Office.

Project evaluation

The projects submitted are analyzed by the Regional Management Committee according to the procedures set out in each region and on the basis of the following criteria:

- Conformity with conditions of eligibility
- Collaboration among teachers, artists, writers and cultural organizations
- Participation of as many students as possible
- Relevance of project's associated preparation and transfer-of-learning activities
- Connections with the Québec Education Program
- A budget based on different sources of funding.

Additional criteria may be added in certain regions. The Regional Management Committee will notify schools of these criteria.

All decisions of the Regional Management Committees are final.

Reporting on the use of financial assistance



Public schools that receive financial assistance under this Program will be required to provide their school board (once the project has been completed and **no later than June 30, 2008**) with a report on the use made of the financial assistance they received. For this they must use the form *Use of Financial Resources – Report by the Public School*. **Private schools** will be required to send their report to their MELS regional office before **August 30, 2008**. They may use the form *Use of Financial Resources – Report by the Private School*. Both forms will be posted on the MELS Web site over the course of the 2007-2008 school year.

The report on the use of financial assistance must indicate where the activities took place (inside or outside the school, the type of cultural partner involved (professional cultural organization, artist or writer), the number of preschool, elementary school or secondary school students who participated, and the funding details.