

AV TRUST STATEMENT RE ELIMINATION OF FEATURE FILM AND MUSIC MEMORIES PROGRAMS

The Audio-Visual Preservation Trust of Canada (AV Trust) deplores the decision of the Canadian Government to abandon the “Canadian Feature Film and Access Program” of the “Feature Film Policy” and the “Canadian Musical Memories Program” of the “Canadian Music Fund” which have played important roles in helping to preserve Canada’s film and music heritage.

The move does a great disservice to the universities, archival institutions and non-profit organizations across the country who are working to ensure that future generations of Canadians will have access to those feature films and musical treasures that have marked our country’s cultural development.

The programs, which have been administered by the AV Trust on behalf of Canadian Heritage for the past eight years, have been instrumental in helping restore, archive and make available to the Canadian people for their enjoyment or to study scores of movies and records.

Among these works are:

- ❖ U’mista Cultural Centre, Alert Bay, BC “Restoring Edward Curtis’s landmark 1914 silent film, *In the Land of the Head Hunters*.”
- ❖ Winnipeg Film Group, Striking screening prints of Guy Maddin’s 1990 iconic feature film, *“Archangel”*.
- ❖ Cinémathèque québécoise in Montreal “Digitizing two Joyce Wieland’s films, *Reason Over Passion (1967)* and *The Far Shore (1971)*.”
- ❖ Toronto International Film Festival Group & Film Circuit, “Restored Michel Brault, *ENTRE LA MER ET L’EAU DOUCE*, through the Film Circuit.”
- ❖ Les Rendez-vous du Cinéma Québécois, Montréal, QC “Release 4 classics :: “La petite Aurore, l’enfant martyre” by Jean-Yves Bigras, “Les Bons débarras” by Francis Manckiewicz, “Sonatine” by Micheline Lanctôt and “Léolo” by Jean-Claude Lauzon”.
- ❖ Musique ProgresSon Music, Montréal, QC “The digital remastering of all of the major works by the Ville Emard Blues Band (VEBB), and their re-release on a limited-edition “Complete Works” 2 CD set with a 12-page, 4-color insert.”
- ❖ Université de Laval, Québec “The digitization of 230 hours within the Archives de folklore et d’ethnologie comprised of music and songs from small or under-represented francophone communities.”

- ❖ Centre for Canadian Cultures and Heritages, Carleton University, Ottawa, “Produced a CD anthology and supplementary educational materials called *Canadian Divas: 1930-1955*, including performances by Deanna Durbin, Pierrette Alarie, Alys Robi, and many others.”
- ❖ Cape Breton University, Sydney, NS “The Beaton Institute (archive), Cape Breton University digitized and made accessible the John Allan Cameron Collection.”
- ❖ THE CELTIC MUSIC INTERPRETIVE CENTRE SOCIETY, Cape Breton, NS “This project preserved, digitized, and made accessible the music of Donald Angus Beaton (1912-1982), of Mabou Coal Mines, who was an eminent composer and musician.”

The elimination of these programs will also affect the operations of the AV Trust, which was set up in 1996 as a public/private non-profit organization of stakeholders in the audio-visual field as an initiative of the then National Archives of Canada with the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The AV Trust, which has always operated on a restrained budget, is currently evaluating its future role in promoting our country’s heritage.

David Novek
President, Audio-Visual Preservation Trust of Canada
August 14, 2008

Information contact: David Novek, 514-909-3591 or
Office of the The AV Preservation Trust at 613-564-3232