

## **Strengthening the *Cultural Property Export and Import Act***

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that significant cultural heritage is safeguarded for the benefit of all Canadians and is accessible to them.

Among the most important measures in place to achieve these objectives and to fight international illicit traffic in cultural property is the *Cultural Property Export and Import Act*.

The *Cultural Property Export and Import Act* came into force in 1977. This law enables Canada to implement its primary obligations under the 1970 UNESCO *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property*. The *Act* establishes systems of export and import control over cultural property and encourages, through tax incentives, the sale and donation of significant cultural property to designated cultural institutions in Canada.

The *Act* also plays a role in implementing Canada's obligations under the 1954 UNESCO *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* and the two Protocols to the *Convention*.

The *Cultural Property Export and Import Act* is now almost 30 years old. The Department of Canadian Heritage is reviewing the legislation to ensure that it remains as effective as possible in the protection of Canadian and international heritage. It is also important for the *Act* to continue to balance the rights of the individual owners of cultural property with the public interest.

Some changes to the *Act* that could be considered would have policy implications or could substantively alter how the *Act* works to protect heritage, and the impact that the *Act* has on Canadians. The Government is therefore seeking the views of Canadians on a number of issues and options. These questions are contained in a discussion document that has been designed to encourage debate and seek public input.

Canadians are invited to share their views on these issues, or any others that could strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of this important legislation. Please provide your views and suggestions by September 30, 2007 via:

e-mail: [CPEIA@pch.gc.ca](mailto:CPEIA@pch.gc.ca)

fax: (819) 997-8533

mail: Director, Heritage Policy  
Department of Canadian Heritage  
15 Eddy Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (15-3-C)  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0M5

A summary of the input received will be posted on the Canadian Heritage website in the fall.