

Summary Note

News Release: [Government of Canada launches new Advisory Council on Rights, Equality and Inclusion](#)

Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada

February 4, 2026

Theme	Purpose	Quote(s)
Social Cohesion	a) Shows the importance of social cohesion at the highest level of government b) Gives examples of what can be accomplished when social cohesion is fostered; the benefits it can have on society	1. “As Canada’s population becomes more diverse, fostering community and civic engagement and a collective sense of belonging is becoming increasingly important.” 2. February 4, 2026, “the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages, announced the creation of the new Advisory Council on Rights, Equality and Inclusion.” 3. “The Advisory Council will be comprised of prominent Canadians from academia as well as experts and community leaders, with a mission to foster social cohesion, rally Canadians around shared identity, combat racism and hate in all their forms, and help guide the efforts of the Government of Canada.”

Make the Case Summary Note

This is a document created to synthesize the points made in the [Departmental Plan 2026-27](#), put forward by the Government of Canada, Canadian Heritage, and the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages.

The Departmental Plan outlines both the social and economic investment in the sectors, as well as the goals of the government in regard to their development over the specified years.

The original document is 80 pages in total, 22 of which focus specifically on Arts & Culture and Heritage & Celebration. These pages have been reviewed and reduced to their goals and evidence through the lenses of social cohesion and economic impact.

Goals

- “Provide opportunities for Canadians to participate and engage in Canada’s creative life, **fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion.**” (p.11)
- Increase GDP of Canadian cultural sector by \$4.7 billion (to cumulative \$66 billion) by March 2027 (p.12)
- Increase in number of Professional arts experiences available to Canadians **in their community.** (p.15)
 - Such as:
 - Percentage of Canadians with access to new or improved cultural facilities in their community
 - 34% in 2024-2025 → **goal of 35% in 2026-2027**
 - Number of not-for-profit Canadian performing arts companies making arts experiences available to Canadians
 - 1,460 in 2024-2025 → **goal of 1,729 in 2026-2027**
- The Canada Arts Presentation fund aims to “**deepen engagement with community**” (p.18)
- “Foster a more inclusive sector that authentically reflects Canada’s diverse perspectives, **promoting long-term social cohesion** and national identity.” (p.19)
- “Contribute to a more **resilient, inclusive, and culturally diverse** media landscape.” (p.19)
- “Canadians participate in events and activities of national significance that celebrate and commemorate Canada’s cultures, shared values, symbols and institutions.” (p.25)
 - New (2026)
- Citizens’ “**sense of belonging** to Canada is strengthened through celebrations and commemorations of national significance.” (p.26)
 - New (2026)
- “People across Canada are provided regular opportunities to **engage in their communities through local arts** and heritage activities” (p.23)
 - New (2026)
- Increase the following: (p.33)
 - Number of people taking part in events by attending or volunteering
 - Number of people reached through national broadcasts of events
 - Number of people taking part in learning or educational activities
 - Percentage of people reporting a stronger sense of belonging to Canada after taking part in a celebration or commemoration of national significance

Evidence to Frame Goals

- **Core responsibility #1: Creativity, arts and culture** is aligned with the following key domains, subdomains and indicators related to quality of life impacts: (p.11)
 - Prosperity
 - Income & Growth
 - GDP
 - Employment & Job Quality
 - Good Governance
 - Democracy & Institutions
 - Trust in media
 - Society
 - **Culture & Identity**
 - Sense of **pride in/ belonging to** Canada
- “Creative industries are successful in the digital economy, foster creativity and contribute to economic growth.” (p.12)
 - Shown by increasing GDP of Canadian cultural sector
- Citizen-focused activities cause Canadians to be better equipped to counter the effects of online disinformation. (p.16)
- Core responsibility 2: Heritage and celebration is aligned with the key domains, subdomains and indicators below: (p.23)
 - Society
 - Culture & Identity
 - Participation in cultural or religious practices, recreation, or sport
 - Sense of pride/ belonging to Canada
 - **Social Cohesion & Connections**
 - Sense of **belonging** to local community
 - Volunteering

This Summary Note was prepared by Clara Tranquilla, Research and Content Assistant, with supervision by Hilary Martin, Project Lead, Make the Case 2026