**THE CULTURAL WORKPLACE**

**Did you know…?**

• Over 500,000 Canadians work in the cultural workplace, in cultural occupations outside the cultural sector (e.g., a corporate writer), or in non‐cultural occupations in the cultural sector (e.g., an auditor for a dance company).

• The cultural sector adds billions of dollars to Canada’s GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

• The cultural sector labour force grew much more quickly than the overall labour force over the last three decades. From 1971 to 2001, the cultural labour force grew by 160%, compared to growth of 81% in the overall labour force.

The cultural workplace offers young people a choice of hundreds of different occupations – from the obvious, such as an actor, to the less obvious, such as a technical copy‐editor. There are many niches that can satisfy a variety of aspirations, dreams and goals.

The workplace is diverse, offering young people many options for work settings and conditions. If you think of a theatre, artist’s studio or orchestra pit, you’ve envisioned a cultural workplace. But what about a heritage fair, computer animation studio, or the freelance writer’s home office? Wherever cultural event or product/service is created, performed, displayed or sold is also a cultural workplace.

A cultural career is challenging. For many workers, it provides stimulation, independence and work

mobility as well as the chance to learn and work in many different places with many different people.

But, the nature of the cultural workplace – the same elements that add to its excitement – also

contributes to some formidable challenges which cultural workers must deal with to achieve their

desired goals. These include:

• unpredictable income;

• lack of work stability;

• long hours;

• self‐employment, and the challenge of self‐management;

• tight timelines;

• the necessity of travel; and

• few or no benefits such as pensions, health plans and sick leave.

Despite the challenges, this workplace attracts many Canadians who realized that they gain enormous satisfaction by being part of the arts and culture scene in Canada. They enjoy the constant change, the ability to be creative, the chance to express their individuality and vision, the fun of being with talented co‐workers, and the personal satisfaction of meeting high expectations. Most importantly, they Love being part of a world that explores the meaning and values of society.

1. What is the text about?
2. What are the perspectives for the cultural workplace in Canada?
3. What are the challenges of a cultural career according to the text?
4. What are some positive aspects of this career?
5. Did this text motivate or scare you in terms of this career?
6. What would be the workplace reality in Brazil?