KEITH KELLY RETURNS TO THE CCA

Ottawa, **August 12**, **2005** - The Canadian Conference of the Arts is pleased to announce that Keith Kelly has assumed the position of Cultural Policy Consultant, effective August 2nd, 2005.

Keith has been actively involved in cultural policy for over twenty-five years. While working for the federal government, Keith served as Secretary of the Status of the Artist Task Force, General Secretary of the Canadian Advisory Committee on the Status of the Artist, and granting officer at Secretary of State. He also worked in the Special Programme of Cultural Initiatives at the Department of Communications.

Members are well aware that Keith served as National Director of the Canadian Conference of the Arts from 1989 to 1998. Following that, he spent over six years as Director of Public Affairs, Research, and Communications at the Canada Council for the Arts.

In recognition of his work, Keith has received a SOCAN Special Achievement Award, an Honorary Membership in Canadian Actors' Equity Association, the Canada 125 Anniversary Medal, and the Queens' Jubilee Medal. He was a founding Board member of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation, and he still serves as a founding member of the Hynatyshyn Foundation Board. In recognition of his work on behalf of the cultural community, the CCA named a new annual award after him, and in 1998, he was the first recipient of the Keith Kelly Award for Cultural Leadership.

The CCA's Interim National Director, Andrew David Terris, is delighted that Keith has returned to the CCA: "I've always had the greatest respect for Keith's work in cultural policy and advocacy. He has a profound knowledge of the issues and players, and he knows how to tiptoe through treacherous political minefields. Policy research and analysis have always been at the core of what the CCA does, and Keith's return signals a reaffirmation of their fundamental importance in our work."

Keith can be reached by email at <u>keithkelly@sympatico.ca</u>. Phone inquiries can be directed to James Missen, CCA's Interim Policy Advisor, at 613-238-3561 extension 19.

Sixty years strong, the Canadian Conference of the Arts is the national forum for the arts and cultural community in Canada. It serves as a leader, authority, and catalyst to ensure that artists can contribute freely and fully to a creative, dynamic, and civil Canadian society.

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