



BULLETIN

Canadian Conference of the Arts ~ Conférence canadienne des arts

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.

For more information on the CCA's current advocacy work, please visit our website at www.ccarts.ca

For more information on the CCA, its Board of Governors, or its most recent Board meeting, please contact:

Laura Coletta
Director of
Communications
804 - 130 Albert Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4
(613) 238 3561 ext.21
Fax (613) 238 4849
info@ccarts.ca
www.ccarts.ca

40/05

Please post and/or distribute. When reprinting CCA Bulletins, please give appropriate credit.

Bulletins are provided as a benefit to our members. If you would like to receive the CCA Bulletin directly, please visit our membership page at www.ccarts.ca and become a member of the CCA.

CCA Update from Parliament Hill

Ottawa, October 19, 2005 – The Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA) presented “Setting the Stage”, its 2005 pre-budget submission, to the Standing Committee on Finance on Wednesday October 5. The CCA appeared as witnesses alongside ACTRA, one of its member organizations, as well as the Canadian Arts Summit, the Canadian Library Association, the Canadian Association of Archivists and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries. The full text of the 2005 pre-budget submission is available on our website: www.ccarts.ca/en/advocacy/publications/policy/documents/prebud06sep05v2.pdf

The hearing was unfortunately cut short due to Members of the Standing Committee being called to the House for nine votes. The Chair, Mr. Massimo Pacetti (Saint-Léonard--Saint-Michel, Quebec), remained until all of the presentations were finished and then adjourned the meeting before committee members had a chance to ask questions of the witnesses. The presenters agreed to the adjournment, as they were told that the votes could take anywhere between two to three hours. Full transcripts of the shortened meeting are available online at:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/infocomdoc/38/1/FINA/Meetings/Evidence/FINAEV88-E.HTM#Int-1402503>

There appears to be a broad consensus around the call for increased federal funding to the arts in keeping with the platform of the Canadian Arts Coalition, which is calling for a funding increase of five dollars per capita to the arts through the Canada Council for the Arts. There was also strong consensus about the resolution of the tax status of artists and arts professionals, as well as the need for increased funding to Canada's museums as part of the Department of Canadian Heritage's exercise to update its museums policy.

The pre-budget consultations are an annual ritual and it goes without saying that no one appears before the Standing Committee to express satisfaction with federal fiscal investments at their current level. Every group has a “shopping list” of financial and policy requests and the Standing Committee members patiently and attentively listen to each presentation.

The Committee report on the consultations is delivered to the Minister of Finance and his Department in preparation for the next federal budget. It is only on budget day that Canadians learn which of the recommendations have made their way into the national financial plan. The federal budget is usually unveiled in February or March each year. However, the possibility of an early election after the anticipated release of Justice John Gomery's report could derail this tradition in 2006, pushing a budget into April or May.

The CCA also met recently with Mr. Will Adams, Policy Advisor to the Hon. Ralph Goodale, Minister of Finance, and Rob Chambers, from the Social Policy Division of the Department of Finance to discuss funding of the arts. Andrew Terris, Interim National Director of the CCA, and James Missen, Cultural Policy Advisor, explained that the share of federal funding to the arts is quite disproportionate to the size and growth rate of the sector. The meeting was organized in order to discuss key findings about regional and sectoral disproportions in federal funding addressed in CCA's July 2005 report, “Government Spending on Culture in Canada, 1992-93 to 2002-03”. Prepared by Kelly Hill of Hill Strategies Research Inc., the report is available online at:

www.ccarts.ca/en/advocacy/publications/policy/documents/KellyHillFinal_001.pdf