



Ottawa, Thursday, March 9, 2006

CANADIAN
CONFERENCE
OF THE ARTS

CONFÉRENCE
CANADIENNE
DES ARTS

The Honourable Jim Flaherty, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Flaherty,

The Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA), Canada's largest national arts and culture advocacy organization, has just concluded an intensive five-day consultation process with Canadian artists, creators and arts professionals on cultural priorities for the 39th Parliamentary session.

There is a very strong sense of urgency in securing the commitment of your government to the funding undertakings announced November 23, 2005. This announcement included a much needed increase to the budget of the Canada Council for the Arts over the next three fiscal years, support for artists developing audiences internationally, national arts training institutions, and infrastructure development.

The CCA would also like to discuss some tax policy issues with you, including expanding the tax credit for extra-curricular physical activities for children your party proposed in the recent federal election to include arts and culture activities. The combination of a sound body and a sound mind is a laudable public policy objective and our members believe that including the arts in the proposed tax credit will moves Canada toward this goal. There is a mounting body of evidence that supporting artistic creativity in our children contributes in the long run not only to their personal development in whatever field of activity they end up choosing but also to Canadian society at large.

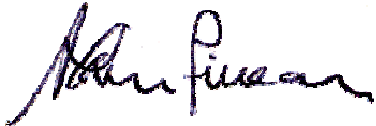
As you prepare the upcoming federal budget, the CCA hopes to have an opportunity to meet with you and explain why these investments are crucial to sustaining Canadian cultural activity at home and around the world. We would also like to

Canadian Conference of the Arts / Conférence canadienne des arts
804 -130 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4 Tel (613) 238-3561 Fax (613) 238-4849
804-130, rue Albert, Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 5G4 tél. (613) 238-3561 Tlc. (613) 238-4849
www.ccarts.ca

discuss with you the recommendations of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives on the role creativity plays in increasing productivity and building our economy. The CCA has recently heard a presentation by the CCCE on this topic and we share their enthusiasm for some key elements in their plan, most notably proposal to exempt a substantial portion of income derived from copyright from federal taxation.

My office will be in touch with your staff in the coming days to determine the feasibility of a meeting before you sign off on the 2006 federal budget. I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of these proposals, and I look forward to discussing these matters with you in person.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alain Pineau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Alain Pineau
National Director