

August 19, 2008

Mr. Gary Schellenberger
Chairman
Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Chairman Schellenberger,

On behalf of the President and the Board of Governors of the Canadian Conference of the Arts, I am writing to express concern over the recent spate of funding cuts within programs at the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

As Canada's oldest and largest arts umbrella organization, the CCA has followed the release of a series of budget reductions with a growing sense of concern. It is unclear whether these reductions are the result of evaluations, or the federal expenditure review program or merely a redesign process.

Your Standing Committee has the opportunity to meet the Minister and senior departmental officials to review the Main Estimates and other matters central to your mandate. The CCA encourages you to invite the Minister of Canadian Heritage and her officials to meet with your Committee to share with you the nature and rationale for these reductions and in some cases program eliminations. Frank answers would do much to assuage the sense of alarm that these recent budget cuts have precipitated.

It is our collective hope that the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage can make time in its Fall schedule to seek this information from the Minister and her officials. In doing so, the Standing Committee will provide an opportunity for the Minister to share with you and all Canadians her vision for the future of arts funding in Canada.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alain Pineau', written in a cursive style.

Alain Pineau
National Director