

**Ministry of Culture**

Minister

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**Ministère de la Culture**

Ministre

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March 30, 2007

M2007-10046

Mr. Alain Pineau  
National Director  
Canadian Conference of the Arts  
804-130 Albert Street  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4

Dear Mr. Pineau:

As Ontario's Minister of Culture, it is my pleasure to inform you that as part of an ongoing and comprehensive approach to provide support for Ontario's artists, the *Status of Ontario's Artists* legislation has been introduced.

I am taking this opportunity to thank you for your part in helping us arrive at this important milestone. Critical to this work was the consultation that the first-ever Minister's Advisory Council for Arts and Culture conducted – the largest consultation ever carried out in the province about the socio-economic status of Ontario's artists. The resulting *Report on the Socio-economic Status of the Artist in Ontario in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* reflects the thoughtful and varied perspectives of thousands of artists and hundreds of organizations. I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in the consultation. Your suggestions were insightful and invaluable to this effort.

Our government, under the leadership of Premier Dalton McGuinty, is taking a leadership role in recognizing our artists and their significant contributions to Ontario's creative economy, quality of life and sense of identity. Committing that recognition to legislation that respects artists' contributions and introduces Ontario's first arts and culture strategy is a major first step in our plan to create a better environment for our artists to thrive.

Our proposed legislation, if passed, would:

- Formally recognize artists' unique economic and social contributions to Ontario's society
- Establish the province's first arts and culture strategy: this government will provide a clear vision for arts and culture, one that will serve as a guide in the development of future policies
- Convey the Government of Ontario's commitment to undertakings that will include: training and professional development opportunities, audience development, promoting artists' health and safety, strengthening arts and culture organizations, creating forums for artists to access information, promoting local culture tourism and municipal cultural planning, and;
- Declare the first weekend of June as *Celebrate the Artist Weekend*. This will provide opportunities to celebrate artists and their work in communities throughout the province.

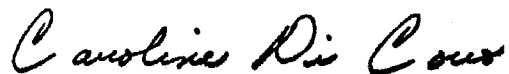
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We *are* committed to our artists. A number of non-legislative initiatives, developed in partnership with other ministries, will be announced in the upcoming weeks to complement the proposed legislation. These initiatives will provide artists with specialized training, support and information that will help them earn a living in their chosen profession.

Artists are the underpinning of all our cultural activities. I know that artistic communities foster innovation, creativity and a quality of place that gives our province a 21<sup>st</sup> century competitive edge. And just as importantly, artists express the spirit and dreams of a society. I am proud that our government is helping them to reflect the best of who we are to the world.

Once again, thank you; and on my behalf, please extend my sincere appreciation to all in your organization for their valuable contribution to this effort and ongoing support as we move forward on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Di Cocco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Di Cocco  
Minister