

Minister  
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre  
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

FEB 28 2006

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

Dear Mr. Pineau:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2006, congratulating me on my election campaign and victory. Thank you as well for your invitation to attend the national policy conference of the Canadian Conference of the Arts to be held in Ottawa from March 3 to 5, 2006.

I regret that it will not be possible for me to attend. However, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Ross Hornby, Assistant Deputy Minister of Strategic Policy and Planning, Mr. James Lambert, Director General of the Public Diplomacy Bureau, as well as Ms. Carolyn Strauss, Director of International Cultural Relations Division, will be pleased to attend some or all of the conference as deemed appropriate.

Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC) has an important mandate to promote Canadian arts and culture abroad. FAC has a program of grants in support of international touring that is important to this community. Its missions abroad also receive great value from visiting Canadian cultural representatives in the various cultural disciplines as an integral component of our public diplomacy strategy. In this context, I would like to meet with you, after the new government has settled in, to discuss the role of FAC in the promotion of the arts overseas.

I thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter G. MacKay".

Peter G. MacKay

Canada