



February 26, 2007

Hon. Bev Oda
Minister of Canadian Heritage
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the President and the Board of Governors of the Canadian Conference of the Arts, I am pleased to share with you our interventions on the Canadian Television Fund and the mandate review of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

These issues are of critical importance to the arts and culture sector and the thousands of talented Canadians who earn a livelihood from the film and video production industry and in the development of programming for the CBC. The CCA has prepared these interventions mindful of the important role that these two institutions play in the expression of Canadian creativity and cultural identity.

With respect to the mandate review of the CBC, it is the view of the CCA that the primary cultural mission given to the CBC in section 3 of the Broadcasting Act is one of the most comprehensive and powerful statements of Canadian cultural policy. The CCA will continue to engage this process, where appropriate and underscore the important national cultural mission that the CBC is uniquely poised to play.

In regards the Canadian Television Fund, representatives of the CCA have already discussed the work of the Task Force with its Chair, Michel Arpin and will continue to develop a constructive dialogue with key players on this important issue. The CTF plays a catalytic role in the development of Canadian television programming through its support of the independent production sector. This cultural objective is often unfortunately obscured in the current debate.

The CCA congratulates you on your leadership on the Canadian Television Fund which was evident in your announcement of federal funding for the next two years. It is our hope that the confidence you have displayed in this gesture will inspire all intervenors to place the cultural values of the fund first and foremost in their considerations.

On behalf of the Board, Secretariat and membership of the CCA, allow me to wish you continuing success in your mandate as Minister of Canadian Heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Alain Pineau
National Director