



Canadian Conference of the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW BOARD CONFIRMED FOR CCA

For Immediate Release

Ottawa, March 29th, 2005 - The President and Chair of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA) is pleased to announce the confirmation of the thirteen individuals who will form the new CCA Board when the current one is dissolved this April. "Given the quality and vast contributions over the years of these incoming members to Canada's cultural community, they are, as a group, ideally suited to carrying CCA forward," stated outgoing CCA President Denise Roy, who will be joining the new Board as an ex-officio member once the current Board completes its three-year mandate.

In accordance with a new governance model adopted by CCA in 2002, eight of the thirteen members were elected by the membership in an online vote that took place over three weeks in February. The remaining five members were appointed by the outgoing Board as a means of achieving balance in regional and professional representation. Responsible for providing leadership, governance, and policy direction to the CCA, the Board of Governors ultimately steers the organization with the aim of addressing the needs and aspirations of the artistic and cultural communities of Canada.

"The formation of this Board is an acknowledgement of the passion and commitment of these thirteen individuals to the arts in Canada," commented CCA National Director Jean Malavoy, extending his congratulations to the new Board members. "My staff and I look forward to working with the Board to facilitate a national environment where artists are valued for the essential role they play, and the fundamental contributions they make to our society."

The CCA extends a warm welcome to the following members of the 2005-2008 Board of Governors:

Frank Addario – Frank is a partner in the law firm of Sack Goldblatt Mitchell in Toronto, where he has a trial and appellate criminal defence practice. He has been a Director of the Criminal Lawyers' Association since 1995 and is currently a Vice President. Frank has been assisting CCA with legal issues related to freedom of expression for nearly ten years. He has a long-standing interest in assisting and defending artists whose freedom of expression is challenged or infringed upon by the state.

Lori Baxter – Lori is the Director of the ArtsNow program of 2010 LegaciesNow, a non-profit society that is actively working to ensure every region of British Columbia benefits from new opportunities that will result from hosting the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Lori has worked extensively in advocacy efforts with all levels of government, the business community and general public. Her particular interests include inter-governmental relations and planning, arts for children and youth – particularly in the educational system, and increasing the public's understanding of the arts' integral relationship to community. This will be Lori's second term on the CCA Board of Governors.

Rose Bellosillo – Rose is currently the Director of Development for Hot Docs, North America's largest documentary festival. As a proud advocate and supporter of arts and culture, she sits as a board member for the Images Festival for Independent Film and Video and is involved in the TAC's Toronto Arts Online working group and the Toronto Festivals network. She has acted as an advisor to many arts groups, and is looking forward to the responsibility of being on this Board, as it reinforces her interests around necessary collective action on issues that directly impact cultural workers.

Michel Blondeau – Michel is a Toronto-based new media producer. As a founding partner in ecentricarts inc., he has produced many award winning digital productions. In 2004 he received the Canwest Global Excellence in Communication award for his support of the industry. As a Board member, he will continue to inform the CCA on the issues related to digital cultural productions and make recommendations accordingly. He will also support other national and international priorities within the CCA, such as status of the artist, digital divide realities, and cultural diversity. This will be Michel's second term on the CCA Board of Governors.

Normand Chouinard – Normand is a comedian, director, writer and producer who has been actively involved in the Quebec theatre, television and film industries for over thirty years. From 1995-2001 he was director of the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal, and he has been co-owner of the Théâtre des Grands Chênes de Kingsey Falls since 1991. Normand also chaired the Conseil québécois du théâtre from 1991 until 1994, and he has sat on several committees of the Union des artistes (UdA) since 1976. He currently sits on the board of Culture Montréal as a representative of the Union des artistes (UdA).

René Cormier – René is Artistic and Executive Director of the Théâtre populaire d'Acadie in Caraquet, New Brunswick. He has been President of the Commission internationale du théâtre francophone since June 2000 and Canada's arts representative on this commission, and has been involved in arts advocacy in Canada for many years, receiving many honours. René has spent 30 years in the arts and culture sector, and his passion is promoting artists and cultural managers who work in all areas of the country and helping to identify important cultural issues in Canada and elsewhere in the world.

Carol Geddes – Whether writing or producing, Carol's prolific output has highlighted the stories and struggles of Aboriginal life in both her home territory of Yukon, as well as other parts of Canada, while garnering her national and international awards for documentaries. Recognizing that changes in technology, in particular, have meant that the entire field of arts faces new challenges in terms of intellectual property rights and new audiences, Carol is proud to return for a second term on the CCA Board to look at this issue, and to act as an advocate for Aboriginal artists.

Bastien Gilbert – Bastien has worked as a cultural administrator for more than 25 years. He has been instrumental in the founding of several arts and culture organizations in Canada, particularly in Quebec, and has sat on several Boards, including being elected chairman of the Board for ESSE in 2003. The organization he manages, the Regroupement des centres d'artistes autogérés du Québec (RCAAQ), is an active member of the Mouvement pour les arts et les lettres (le MAL), and he himself has been actively involved in advocacy for contemporary and modern visual art, and for its practitioners in Quebec and Canada. He is committed to two issues in particular: improving funding for the Canada Council for the Arts, and facilitating access to the designation of national arts service organization.

Sheila Roberts – Sheila is a cultural policy consultant, analyst and researcher and is a recognized Canadian authority on 'Status of the Artist' issues. She has a lifelong involvement with the artistic community and promotion of Saskatchewan's artists, particularly in the film and broadcasting industry, as ACTRA's representative for many years, in independent training and development initiatives and in research. In 2004 she was nominated for the Lieutenant

Governor's Award for Leadership in the Arts. Sheila recognizes that efforts need to be made to bring arts organizations and artists, at the provincial and national levels, into motion in order to make progress on equity issues for artists, and she will be bringing this interest forward, as a Board member.

Karl Siegler – Karl is the President and Publisher of Talonbooks. As a private consultant, he coordinated Manitoba's cultural industries policy, and created the first book and magazine publishing Cultural Industries Sub-agreement with the Governments of Canada and Manitoba in 1983. He was also one of the founding members of the Simon Fraser Centre for Studies in Publishing, and the Masters in Publishing program. In his role as a representative of the Association of Canadian Publishers, for whom he twice served as President, Karl played a significant role in creating the "Cultural Industries Exemption" in both the FTA and the NAFTA. He believes that Canada needs a strong and independent public policy on arts and culture now more than ever and is eager to work towards this as a CCA Board member. This will be Karl's second term on the CCA Board of Governors.

Robert Sirman – Robert is Administrative Director of Canada's National Ballet School in downtown Toronto. As a speechwriter and policy advisor for the Ontario Government in the 1970's, he helped to establish Ontario's first Ministry of Culture in 1975. Among other accomplishments, Robert was a founding member and vice-chair of the Cultural Human Resources Council in Ottawa, and chairs the advisory council of the University of Toronto's Co-op Arts Management Program at Scarborough. Most recently, he was librettist for James Kudelka's full-length ballet, *The Contract*. Robert is honoured to add his voice to CCA efforts, and is strongly committed to advancing arts practice in society, and to creating conditions helpful to supporting a vibrant cultural sector.

Robert Spickler – Robert has 35 years of experience as a senior manager of cultural organizations, holding senior management positions at the Canada Council for the Arts, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and the Canadian Centre for Architecture. He has also been chair and spokesperson of cultural agencies on both the domestic and international scenes. As a CCA Board member, Robert is committed to participating actively in the examination of issues focused namely on the training and professional development of arts managers, arts funding, implementation, analysis and evaluation of cultural policies, and the relationship between government and the arts and culture environment.

Andrew David Terris – Andrew is the founder of ARTS NOVA Cultural Research and Consulting which has been involved in a number of federally funded research and development projects. After spending twenty years working as a self-employed craftsman, designer, artist and sculptor in Nova Scotia, in 1990 he authored the Public Policy and Cultural Development in Nova Scotia report which eventually led to the creation of the Nova Scotia Arts Council. Andrew has served on numerous boards and committees, and is pleased to be returning for his second term as a CCA Board member, committed to building CCA's focus on research, policy analysis, and advocacy.

The Canadian Conference of the Arts is Canada's national forum for the arts and cultural community. The CCA is a leader in the defence of artists' rights, an authority on public policy in arts and culture, and a catalyst for debate and action within the sector.

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