



**Présentation
au comité permanent des finances
par la
Conférence canadienne des arts**

Décembre 2007

07.12.07

Conférence canadienne des arts

Présentation au comité permanent des finances

M. le Président, Mesdames et messieurs membres du comité, mon nom est Alain Pineau et je suis directeur général de la Conférence canadienne des arts.

La Conférence canadienne des arts est la plus ancienne et la plus vaste organisation au Canada dans le domaine des arts et de la culture. Nos membres proviennent de tous les secteurs d'activités et de toutes les disciplines à travers le pays, du peintre dans son atelier à Victoria à l'orchestre symphonique de St John's, en passant par les grands syndicats et les associations d'employeurs de nos industries culturelles.

Depuis plus de 20 ans, la CCA participe aux consultations du ministre fédéral des finances et de ce comité quant aux mesures fiscales et budgétaires susceptibles d'optimiser les investissements dans ce secteur de notre économie créative.

Public investment in the Canadian cultural sector is an issue of perennial importance to the CCA and its members. This is why, while we think further such investments in creativity are required, we rejoice in the recent announcement by the government of an on-going increase of \$ 30 M in the budget of the Canada Council for the Arts. Similarly, we are happy that the government is investing \$ 30 million in "Building Communities Through the Arts and Heritage" and, more particularly, that \$ 7 million is supplementing the Arts Presentation Program.

While we also rejoice that the latest budget has reinstated a \$ 5 million summer internship program for museums, we note that the long promised and much needed new museum policy and the related increased investments in our heritage are still missing in action.

07.12.07

Of equal importance to us is the issue of adequate funding in support of the internationalization of Canadian artists, creators and arts professionals. The CCA hopes that the Standing Committee will recognize the value of all programs at the Departments of Canadian Heritage and of Foreign Affairs and International Trade which aim at building Canada's image abroad and develop new markets for our artists and cultural industries.

The CCA hopes, with all our colleagues from the non-profit sector, that you will use your report to encourage the Minister of Finance and the President of the Treasury Board to expedite the implementation of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Grants and Contributions. This Report contains many constructive recommendations and properly acknowledges that grant and contribution recipients are partners with the federal government in delivering value services to Canadians. The recommendations regarding multi-year funding and the development of an accountability framework commensurate with the size of the grant or contribution and the risk involved are eminently sensible

L'économie canadienne connaît actuellement une transformation fondamentale alors qu'elle passe de l'ère industrielle à celle de l'information, que plusieurs appellent l'économie créative. Dans le modèle précédent, la population canadienne pouvait compter travailler pour le même employeur jusqu'à l'âge de la retraite. Aujourd'hui, on change d'emplois plusieurs fois dans une vie et le nombre de travailleurs autonomes ne cesse de croître à un rythme accéléré.

Similarly, life-long learning is now the norm, as individuals acquire new skills to remain competitive and productive members of the work force. Yet for all of these changes, the federal government has not moved to retool its programs and services, which are firmly rooted in the industrial employer/employee model.

Benefits such as maternity leave, disability allowances, employment insurance

07.12.07

are denied to self-employed Canadians. This erosion of the universal nature of the social benefit programs is constant and affects more and more Canadians every year.

The CCA therefore recommends that the federal government commission a Task Force to examine how self-employed Canadians are currently treated under aging and increasingly obsolete conceptions of the fundamental nature of the Canadian labour force. Such an investigation would also be asked to examine tax policy as it affects the self-employed.

À ce chapitre, la CCA recommande depuis longtemps que l'on réintroduise l'étalement du revenu dans le système de taxation, mais le ministère des Finances continue de faire la sourde oreille. Si l'étalement du revenu n'est pas possible, il faut inventer d'autres solutions à un régime visiblement inéquitable pour un nombre croissant de travailleurs dans tous les secteurs d'activités. Nous vous invitons donc à encourager le Ministre des Finances à inclure cette problématique dans le mandat du Groupe de travail dont nous parlions tantôt.

The place of copyright and residual income is central to success in the creative economy. For the past several years, the CCA has called upon the federal government to grant a limited exemption from federal income tax on copyright and residual income. This form of incentive rewards creativity and innovation and bolsters Canadian productivity and competitiveness. The Minister of Finance has not yet accepted this reasoning, which has received the noted support of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives.

Another dimension of the changes within the Canadian labour market is the prospect of the retirement of the baby boomers in all sectors of the economy. The cultural sector is but one area where recruitment, retention and succession are issues of utmost importance. The CCA and the Cultural Human Resource Council have been preoccupied with this issue and have encouraged the

07.12.07

development of a national mentorship program to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills to the succeeding generation of Canadians. Such a program is essential to maintain the dynamism of the Canadian labour force, in the arts and culture sector and beyond.

M. le Président, la CCA et ses membres continueront à travailler sans relâche à l'amélioration de la qualité de vie de nos concitoyens, au développement de notre créativité et à la promotion de notre expression artistique et culturelle au pays et à l'étranger. Nous vous remercions de tenir cette consultation à travers tout le pays et sommes reconnaissants d'avoir été invités aujourd'hui à y participer.