



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

Ottawa, Ontario

June 3, 2005

Dear Mr. Malavoy:

Thank you for your letter of May 6, 2005.

The time you have taken to write is greatly appreciated, and let me assure you that your comments regarding federal funding for the Tomorrow Starts Today (TST) program have been given careful and appropriate consideration. As you know, the Minister of Canadian Heritage announced on December 15, 2004 that this initiative would be extended for another year with a budget of up to \$192 million, with \$172 million of new funding and the remainder from reallocation within the Department.

Moreover, Budget 2005 further extends the \$172 million of new funding per year for another four years, for a total of \$688 million. This brings total new funding for the TST program to \$860 million over five years. The Government of Canada strongly believes that this multi-year investment will help create stability within the arts and culture community by providing predictable levels of funding in the years to come. It will also help cultivate a vibrant and creative cultural life in communities across the country that reflects Canada's multicultural society and promotes a diversity of views and cultural expressions at home and abroad.

With this in mind, let me assure you that our Government is committed to passing the Budget. That is why we reached an agreement in principle with the New Democratic Party, which will keep Parliament focussed on the priorities of Canadians. Both Parties will work hard to make sure that the budget bill passes and receives royal assent, and we will make every effort to expedite its passage.

Our Government understands the importance of the Federal Budget – particularly for the arts community. Let me assure you that we look forward to forging ahead with this legislation.

Please accept my warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Roberta', written in a cursive style.

Mr. Jean Malavoy
National Director
Canadian Conference of the Arts
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Ottawa, Ontario
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