



BULLETIN

Canadian Conference of the Arts ~ Conférence canadienne des arts

CHALMERS 2005 – HOW TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THE “CHAOTIC MARKETPLACE” OF GOVERNMENT POLICY PROCESS

Ottawa, March 11, 2005 - “The policy process happens in an environment that is as much a chaotic marketplace as a planned system. It has rules and expectations for roles and process, but these can be abbreviated or altered by the Prime Minister and Government to suit the task at hand. It is always in the throes of important changes – particularly in the role and structure of cabinet committees, and usually without much public notice.... Government agencies are wary of defining something “official” that may create expectations for due process.”

Thus begins Glen Milne’s guide to the federal government’s policy process, entitled “Making Policy”. Mr Milne will be one of the speakers at CCA’s next Chalmers Conference, scheduled for 15 April in the Panorama Room of the National Arts Centre. His presentation will lead delegates through the intricacies of policy-making at the government level, providing insights into the decision-making process, and updates on changes introduced by the current government.

“Making Policy” was updated in October 2004, and normally sells for \$50 a copy. CCA will be making it available to participants, in English or in French, as part of this year’s Chalmers Conference kits. Additional copies will be available on the day of the conference at a special one-time-only price.

Continuing on the theme of the government policy process, Tranquillo Marrocco, Deputy Principal Clerk of the Committees Directorate of the House of Commons, will guide participants through the parliamentary committee process with particular attention to understanding committee business, how bills progress through Parliament, and what services are available to assist organizations in preparing submissions and presentations. The minority status of the current government has given more prominence to the standing committees than ever.

Playwright and former NDP MP Wendy Lill will be the guest speaker at lunch. Ms Lill will draw on her experience as an MP and a member of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage to provide insights into how to get your organization’s message into the official record, and what she learned through three parliamentary studies (the flow of information, who controls the information, and who actually reads the material).

Further details of the afternoon’s panels will be available in the coming weeks. A draft agenda is now available on the CCA’s website at www.ccarts.ca

Who is the conference for?

The Chalmers Conferences are structured for representatives of cultural organizations. One representative of a CCA organizational member may attend free of charge; additional representatives, and representatives of organizations which are not CCA members, must pay the registration fee of \$150 for the 2005 Chalmers Conference. The fee includes the cost of breakfast and lunch, and all conference materials. All those wishing to attend Chalmers must register in advance; forms can be downloaded from the CCA’s website.

Networking breakfast open to individuals

As in past years, CCA is opening up the breakfast component at the Chalmers Conference to CCA individual members and other individuals who are not members of the CCA. CCA individual members may attend at no charge; non-members will be asked to pay \$25. All individuals wishing to attend the breakfast must register in advance by contacting Annie Caporicci (238 3561 ext. 10 or annie.caporicci@ccarts.ca). Space is limited; individuals registering for the breakfast will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

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CCA Bulletin — continued

CCA is grateful for the continuing generosity of the National Arts Centre in co-hosting the networking breakfast at the Chalmers Conference. CCA welcomes representatives of our organizational members' to participation at this year's timely gathering.