



BULLETIN

Canadian Conference of the Arts ~ Conférence canadienne des arts

CHALMERS REGISTRATION DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING – ENSURE YOUR SPOT BY REGISTERING TODAY

Ottawa, 1 April 2005 -

MPs and Young Managers Profiled in Chalmers Afternoon Sessions

Building on the success of last year's Chalmers Conference on government relations, this year's conference, scheduled for 15 April at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, continues the all-important theme of advocacy. CCA bulletin 11/05 outlined some of the presentations lined up for Chalmers: Glen Milne on how government makes policy, and Tranquillo Marrocco on making sense of the parliamentary process, with playwright and former MP Wendy Lill as guest speaker.

The afternoon sessions for the Chalmers Conference have now been announced:

1. MPs' Panel

The government policy-making picture on Parliament Hill has changed in a number of important ways over the past couple of years. Some of the changes have been formally introduced; others are the result of the current minority government status.

A panel of MPs will respond to questions, primarily relating to how standing committees function and how cultural organizations can best make an impression on them. The MPs for the panel include

- The Honourable **Sarmite Bulte** (Liberal MP for Parkdale-High Park, ON, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage)
- Ms **Bev Oda** (Conservative MP for Durham, ON and Canadian Heritage critic)
- Mr **Maka Kotto** (Bloq québécois MP for Saint-Lambert, PQ, and Canadian Heritage critic)

(A representative of the NDP is still TBA.)

The moderator for the session is **Ken Rockburn**, the savvy host of CPAC's "Talk Politics".

Send in your question

This is your chance to have a question addressed by this panel of MPs. CCA invites you to submit your question before Thursday 7 April, in order to have it considered. Questions should be sent to info@ccarts.ca; questions will not be attributable. It is anticipated there will be time for further questions from the floor towards the end of this panel session.

2. Young Managers' Panel

The focus here is on young managers in the cultural sector: what role mentorship played in their development, how they address the work/life balance, what advocacy issues resonate with them. Panellists include

- **Shannon Litzenberger**, an independent practicing dance artist and the founder and Artistic Director of the Integrated Dance Artists' Collective, who is part of a new management model designed by the Canadian Dance Assembly
- **Kristian Clarke**, co-Director of CARFAC Ontario.

The panel will be moderated by **James Missen**, currently the Interim Policy Advisor

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15/05

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at the CCA. *(Additional participants will be announced shortly.)*

In addition, the **Canadian Cultural Observatory** of the Department of Canadian Heritage will provide a “mini office” facility for delegates throughout the entire day.

Who is Chalmers for?

The Chalmers Conferences were initiated in 2000 and are intended only for representatives of cultural organizations. CCA organizational members may send one representative free of charge; additional representatives must pay a \$150 registration fee. Organizations which are not members of the CCA, must also pay the \$150 registration fee (or become a member and take advantage of the savings!)

Can CCA’s individual members participate in any way?

The networking breakfast, co-hosted by the National Arts Centre and scheduled to begin at 8.30am, is open to CCA individual members as well as to artists and cultural members who are not members of the CCA. The breakfast is free of charge to CCA members; non-members will be asked to pay \$25. Everyone wishing to attend the breakfast **MUST** register with CCA in order that we have correct numbers; please contact Annie Caporicci at annie.caporicci@ccarts.ca or call 238 3561, ext.18.

For details of the complete Chalmers Conference schedule, and to download the registration form, please go to CCA’s website at www.ccarts.ca

Is advocacy still needed now that cultural funding has been renewed?

Many in the cultural sector breathed a sigh of relief when the renewed funding for Tomorrow Starts Today was announced as part of the Budget in February, but this only provides a temporary hiatus. Not only will these funds need to be renewed again within a relatively short time frame, but it is also important that the sector lobby for increased funding. The time to start building the next campaign is NOW!

Advocacy work in the cultural sector is ongoing and never-ending. It is essential that cultural organizations be involved in advocacy work at all times rather than only starting at times of crisis. A clearer understanding of the workings of government and of the parliamentary process is an important element in ensuring the best use of one’s advocacy energies and dollars.

If you haven’t already registered for the Chalmers Conference, please do so as soon as possible as registrations are taken on a first come, first served basis.