



BULLETIN

Canadian Conference of the Arts ~ Conférence canadienne des arts

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CCA'S 2005 FEDERAL BUDGET ANALYSIS NOW AVAILABLE

Ottawa, May 12, 2005 - The Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA) would like to announce that our annual in-depth analysis of the Federal Budget is now available on our website in both English and French. Please visit:

<http://ccarts.ca/en/advocacy/publications/policy/index.html#Budget>

Entitled **"Tomorrow Sees Another Day"**, with reference to the renewal of the essential *Tomorrow Starts Today* cultural funding program, CCA's 2005 budget analysis contains some welcome news for the sector, as it attempts to make connections between fiscal allocations and federal government policy directions. Moreover, the analysis does not shy away from asking the tough questions where discrepancies arise and, obviously, the document now sits in the shadow of the federal election clouds currently looming overhead in Ottawa. Just hours ago, Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Paul Martin announced that there will be a confidence vote on the budget bill in the House of Commons on Thursday, May 19.

"Tomorrow Sees Another Day" examines overall federal funding levels to the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH), cultural agencies and crown corporations; organizational and funding changes within the DCH; federal funding of key programs across the arts, heritage, and cultural industries, and other noteworthy developments for the sector.

The analysis will provide members, as well as policy and decision makers, with insights regarding:

- o The "big picture" of federal funding levels to arts, culture, and heritage, i.e. Where is the money going? How will expenditure review affect the sector? How are individual programs working?
- o A detailed examination of crucial funding issues, trends, challenges and opportunities on a sub-sectoral basis, with reference to specific programs.
- o Recent funding and organizational changes in the Department of Canadian Heritage.
- o Current developments in the sector beyond federal funding, including: the Workplace skills strategy, Copyright Reform, the Canadian Council on Learning, and the Commission on the Review of Federal Labour Standards.

Several key findings emerge from CCA's 2005 budget analysis, including:

- o A commitment of \$860 million over five years for the renewal of Tomorrow Starts Today, until March 2010.
- o A relatively steady level of federal funding for the arts, culture, and heritage sector, with only a modest decline in funding to some programs, organizations and agencies across the sector.

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- o Uncertainty surrounding the aforementioned funding commitments for Tomorrow Starts Today in the event of a federal election.
- o Uncertainty surrounding the implications of reallocation and expenditure reviews for the cultural sector.
- o How DCH has undertaken a restructuring of its management framework by reformulating the way it conceives its key policy outcomes, program activities, and the relationship between its outcomes and activities.

Overall, notwithstanding the potential areas of concern, this budget attests to the strong and successful advocacy efforts of CCA members throughout the last year. Unfortunately, as was mentioned in CCA's previous bulletin (see CCA Bulletin 22/05 "ADVOCACY ALERT-- Pre-Election Advocacy Starts To Take Shape"), in the current political environment in Ottawa, and with the increasing likelihood of an early federal election call, the future of the 2005 Federal Budget is somewhat uncertain.

**CONSERVATIVE PARTY HERITAGE CRITIC RESPONDS
TO CCA 22/05 ADVOCACY ALERT**

Furthermore, CCA received correspondence from Conservative Party Heritage Critic Bev Oda on May 9 articulating her own stance, as well as that of her party, regarding the future of federal fiscal support for the arts, culture, and heritage sector. Ms. Oda's letter was received via email and the full text is available for viewing at: http://www.ccarts.ca/en/documents/BevOdaletter_001.pdf

Ms. Oda wrote, "I want to be clear that the Conservative Party will honour all commitments made in the budget to the cultural industries even if the budget is not passed. And regarding your concern on infrastructure funding, in an open letter, dated May 6 2005, to Canadian municipalities, Stephen Harper has stated, 'I want to reassure municipal representatives across Canada that even if this budget is not passed, there is no risk whatsoever to promised infrastructure funding under a Conservative government.' And he goes on to say, '....this funding will be available in the current fiscal year.'" Ms. Oda also mentioned, "You point out 'much of last year was spent on advocacy efforts in order to gain unanimous support from all of Canada's federal political parties for the renewal and extension of TST.' As you know I was the member of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage who made the motion asking the Minister indicate to the cultural community of her intentions to renew Tomorrow Starts Today before the Christmas break. In a matter of days she did so. I did this on behalf of the Conservative Party that does not believe it is reasonable to keep the entire cultural community in limbo when planning for the upcoming year or years is taking place."



**MINISTER FRULLA OUTLINES SEVEN POINT AGENDA FOR
CANADA'S CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY**

On May 9, Hon. Liza Frulla, Minister of Canadian Heritage, assumed the podium at the Canadian Club in Toronto for a lunchtime address. In a speech entitled "How Culture Defines Who We Are", Minister Frulla described herself as "a passionate champion for culture," and stated that culture, "must be nurtured, invested in, fought for, and celebrated." To achieve this, she outlined a seven-point agenda for Canadian cultural sovereignty, which consists of:

1. Increasing financial support for the arts and Canada's cultural industries, including the Canada Council for the Arts.
2. Protecting intellectual property through a strong, enforceable copyright international framework based in law.
3. Reforming Canada's museums and archives policies.
4. Ensuring that the federal government keeps its commitment to the provinces and territories so they can offer students an opportunity to learn their second official language.
5. Renewing the relationship with aboriginal peoples, and preserving Aboriginal languages and culture.
6. Strengthening Canada's broadcasting system by:
 - o reviewing CRTC's policies and regulations;
 - o rethinking the role of the CBC and private broadcasters;
 - o addressing the challenges posed by high-definition television;
 - o maintaining its ownership in Canadian hands.
7. Protecting global and cultural diversity by playing a leadership role at UNESCO to articulate a new international instrument convention that would guarantee the rights of states to take measures to support artist and creators across all forms of cultural expressions.

Her address touched on her belief that Canada's cultural industries are essential to our identity as Canadians, and why we need to protect our cultural sovereignty, while also being open to a world being transformed by technology, communication, and globalization.

The full text of Minister Frulla's speech is available at:

http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/pc-ch/min/discours-speech/2005-05-09_e.cfm