



BULLETIN

Canadian Conference of the Arts ~ Conférence canadienne des arts

Sixty years strong, the Canadian Conference of the Arts is the national forum for the arts and cultural community in Canada. It serves as a leader, authority, and catalyst to ensure that artists can contribute freely and fully to a creative, dynamic, and civil Canadian society.

For more information on the CCA's current advocacy work, please visit our website at www.ccarts.ca

For more information, please contact:

Andrew David Terris
Interim National Director
Canadian Conference of the Arts
(613) 238-3561, extension 12
andrew.terris@ccarts.ca
www.ccarts.ca

43/05

Please post and/or distribute. When reprinting CCA Bulletins, please give appropriate credit.

Bulletins are provided as a benefit to our members. If you would like to receive the CCA Bulletin directly, please visit our membership page at www.ccarts.ca and become a member of the CCA.

Five Dollars More - Canadian Arts Coalition Lobbies Parliament

Ottawa, October 26, 2005 – Over 70 activists from across the country, including such luminaries as filmmaker Deepa Mehta, actress Cynthia Dale, and dancer Veronica Tennant, converged on Parliament Hill on Tuesday 25 October to state the case for new arts funding.

Divided into teams of 2 to 5 people, they met with roughly 78 Cabinet ministers, party leaders, MPs and Senators from all parties. Their message was as loud and clear as it was simple: increase federal arts funding by \$5 per Canadian, and do it through the Canada Council for the Arts.

CCA board and staff (CCA President Robert Spickler, Board member Bastien Gilbert, Interim National Director Andrew Terris) and numerous CCA members were among the many petitioners making the rounds on the Hill. In general, the Coalition's recommendations were met with interested attention, informed questions, and what appeared to be genuine promises of support – almost across the board.

The Coalition's Lobby Day ended with a lively reception in the Senate Chambers which allowed parliamentarians and their staff to meet informally with Coalition representatives. Among those attending were Deputy Prime Minister Anne McClellan, Minister of Canadian Heritage Liza Frulla, Minister of National Defence Bill Graham, Minister of National Revenue John McCallum, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Belinda Stronach, NDP Leader Jack Layton, CPC culture critic Bev Oda, and NDP culture critic Charlie Angus. The highlight of the reception was an impassioned plea by Albert Schultz from Soulpepper Theatre in Toronto, who made the case, in no uncertain terms, for generous public support of Canadian creativity.

While Coalition activists may have left the Hill feeling exhilarated by the events of the day, they are well aware that this is just the beginning of the campaign. The next step is to ensure that the issue is not forgotten, and that individual MPs are aggressively lobbied in their own ridings by local artists and arts organizations.

Tuesday's Lobby Day was preceded on Monday by a meeting of the National Arts Service Organizations (NASOs) at the offices of the Canada Council for the Arts. Council staff outlined the Arts Division's new action plan and tabled the 2004 MacSkimming report on Council's relationship with the NASOs. The report contained three key recommendations, one of which was that Council should hold an annual NASO summit in conjunction with the CCA's annual Chalmers Conference. Given its mandate for arts leadership, this is a recommendation that the CCA will definitely be acting on.