



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:
Alain Pineau
National Director
804 - 130 Albert Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4
(613) 238 3561 ext.12
Fax (613) 238 4849
info@ccarts.ca
www.ccarts.ca

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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.

Federal Election Campaign Begins –

Where will federal parties stand on culture issues?

Ottawa, November 29, 2005 – To the surprise of no one, the opposition parties made good on their recent threats to defeat Rt. Hon. Paul Martin's minority government and have voted in support of a non-confidence motion. Early signs are that this federal election will be somewhat different than Canadian elections of the past, as we have already witnessed the beginnings of negative campaign tactics and name-calling that will likely only heat up over the coming weeks.

The challenge for organizations like the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA) will be to put public policy issues forward and have each party pronounce themselves on their intentions for the arts and cultural sector, if elected. What legislative program are they planning and which are the most important priorities for each contending party? Will each political party honour the financial commitment to the Canada Council for the Arts and other cultural institutions and funding programs announced last week? Will the parties agree to revisit Canada's International Policy which abolishes the Third Pillar of foreign policy, "the promotion of Canadian culture and values"? How will the parties approach the subject of copyright reform and will future legislation affirm the rights of creators?

The CCA will be consulting with our membership on an on-going basis in the coming days and weeks to determine what items you feel must be a part of any successful party's election platform. We would also welcome your suggestions by email at any time lcoletta@ccarts.ca. We will keep our membership informed of how the cultural sector's election platform is shaping up and the kind of responses we receive from party officials.

When the Board of the CCA met in September of this year, it approved a Code of Conduct for the CCA during a federal election campaign. This Code spells out the non-partisan nature of the CCA and how it intends to preserve this status during an election campaign. It is on our website at www.ccarts.ca/en/about/bog/CodeofConduct.htm.

Finally, if you have any suggestions as to how to raise the issues of importance to the arts and cultural sector, please share them. If you hear an answer from a candidate that makes you sweat or jump for joy, please let us know. The CCA will be providing coverage of the election campaign and the treatment of cultural issues.