



Hon. Josée Verner  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the President and the Board of Governors of the Canadian Conference of the Arts, I am writing to express our concern over reports that your Department is about to implement new regulations dealing with offensive content in publicly funded film and television productions.

While the CCA is not prepared to comment on the substance of the revisions until they are available, media reports are disturbing for anyone concerned with freedom of expression and the vitality of Canadian artistic and cultural expression,

It is the view of the CCA that adequate provisions already exist in Canadian law that have been passed by our Parliamentarians and tested and clarified by the Supreme Court of Canada, following a rigorous and thoughtful process. Such provisions within the Criminal Code of Canada address undue exploitation of violence, pornography, child pornography and exploitation, the promotion of hate and crime, libel and slander. These provisions are available to anyone to deal with the production of offensive material by privately or publicly funded productions, in any medium.

The CCA invites you and your officials to proceed with great prudence on this matter. The Minister of Canadian Heritage and her officials should be the tireless guardians of freedom of expression and should be diligent in preserving that freedom for artists, creators, producer and all Canadians.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alain Pineau'.

Alain Pineau  
National Director