



September 5, 2006

Mr. Brian Pallister, Chair  
Standing Committee on Finance  
c/o Ms. Elizabeth B. Kingston, Clerk  
Room 673, 180 Wellington  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Pallister,

The Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA) is Canada's oldest and largest arts service organizations, representing the interests of over 250,000 Canadians from all areas of the arts and culture sector. For over sixty years the CCA has engaged artists, creators, arts professionals and government departments and agencies in a sustained dialogue on cultural policy development.

The CCA has also been an annual participant in the pre-budget consultations for over two decades. During this time we have put forward ideas and recommendations so that the federal government and the arts and culture sector can more effectively work together in contributing to the development of the country's arts and cultural industries. This year the CCA is putting forward a number of recommendations based on the fundamental changes underway within Canadian society and the labour market.

The CCA is encouraged by several developments reflected in the 2006 federal budget and by the fact that Canada was the first country to sign and ratify the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity. By so doing, it is the expectation of the CCA and its members that the federal government will maintain and enhance the support that it provides to the arts and cultural sector as a whole. To that end, the CCA expects that the Government will ensure the vitality of Canadian culture through the judicious use of legislation, regulation, our national cultural institutions and agencies, as well as direct funding programs.

The submission of the CCA to your Committee addresses these and other issues, which we feel are important issues warranting the serious attention of your colleagues on the Standing Committee and within the government.

We look forward to an early confirmation of our appearance before your Committee as it undertakes its important work this autumn.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alain Pineau', written in a cursive style.

Alain Pineau  
National Director