



Ottawa, Thursday, May 4, 2006

The Honourable Bev Oda, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Canadian Heritage
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Oda,

On behalf of the Board, membership and staff of the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA), I am writing to express our collective gratitude for your successful efforts to increase the funding of the Canada Council for the Arts in the 2006 federal budget plan.

In a very short period of time you and your officials have managed to convince your Cabinet colleagues of the importance of increasing investment in the country's vital arts and culture sector. The 2006 federal budget plan is ample proof of the efforts that you and your officials have dedicated to this issue.

While you will hear voices of disappointment that the full list of funding requests was not accommodated in the budget, the CCA regards this as an important first step in convincing all Parliamentarians of the importance of increased public investment in all parts of the arts and culture sector. The CCA stands ready to assist you in your continuing efforts to secure increased funding and in the development of public policies that encourage and reward creativity and innovation in all art forms, for the benefit of all Canadians.

It is my hope that we will be able to meet in person soon so we can discuss strategies that will bring even more impressive results in the coming years. In the meantime, please accept our thanks for your first victory and best wishes for your continued success as Minister of Canadian Heritage.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alain Pineau'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Alain' being more prominent than the last name 'Pineau'.

Alain Pineau
National Director