



March 12, 2007

Hon. Caroline Di Cocco
Minister of Culture
900 Bay Street
5th Floor Mowat
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Di Cocco,

On behalf of the President and the Board of Governors of the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA), I am writing to urge you to bring forward legislation to affirm the socio-economic status of Ontario's artists and creators.

As Canada's oldest and largest arts umbrella organization, the CCA was actively involved in the development of the federal status of the artist legislation which was regarded as an essential element in securing the position of professional artists in Canadian society. It has always been the position of the CCA that the full benefits of status of the artist legislation can only be achieved once every province adopts similar legislation. Since most artists, creators and arts professionals work in areas of provincial labour jurisdiction, this places the onus on governments such as your own to develop, adopt and implement similar legislation.

The CCA notes with satisfaction the movement of the Government of Saskatchewan towards adopting status of the artist legislation for artists working in areas of provincial labour jurisdiction. It is preparing to join Quebec as the only other province to recognize and accommodate in law the unique circumstances surrounding the working conditions of professional artists and creators.

The Government of Ontario has been examining this issue for over a decade and under three different governments. The CCA has heard from its members in Ontario that it is now time for the Government of Ontario to bring forward status of the artist legislation at the earliest opportunity. This is a long overdue development for the province with the greatest number of professional artists, creators and arts professionals. Your leadership on this issue would be most appreciated.

On behalf of the Board, Secretariat and membership of the CCA, please accept my best wishes in bringing status of the artist legislation to fruition in Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Alain Pineau". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Alain Pineau
National Director