



November 2, 2006

Hon. James Flaherty  
Minister of Finance  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1N 0A6

**Re: extension of Child Fitness Tax Credit to artistic activities**

Dear Minister Flaherty,

The Secretariat of the Canadian Conference of the Arts has now had an opportunity to review the report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on the Child Fitness Tax Credit.

As you will recall, when I met with you on April 19<sup>th</sup>, in advance of the 2006 federal budget, I raised the possibility of extending the tax credit to include activities in the arts beyond dance. At that time you asked the CCA to prepare a background paper making the case for such an extension. The final paper was submitted at the end of September to the Blue Ribbon Panel, the Standing Committee on Finance and, of course, to you. The brief puts forward facts, considerations and reasons for which a government interested in supporting families and in investing in our children should consider such an extension a wise and equitable measure to adopt.

It is somewhat of a disappointment to see the Blue Ribbon Panel adhere very strictly to its mandate and remain totally silent on the extension of the tax credit to participation in art forms other than from the purely cardio-vascular perspective, such as music, theatre, visual arts and new media. It is our hope that you will use your discretion as Minister of Finance to reconsider the request of the CCA to broaden the criteria of tax credit to include these other activities.

The CCA would be happy to meet with you or your officials to discuss this matter further. I appreciate that you are in the midst of preparing for the 2007 federal budget but we would hope that you would reconsider this issue prior to finalizing the criteria for the child activity tax credit. I can be contacted at 613.238.3561 ext. 12.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, the Secretariat and membership of the CCA, please accept my sincere appreciation for your attention to this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Alain Pineau  
National Director