



December 12, 2006

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

Dear Minister Flaherty,

On behalf of the Board, membership, and staff of the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA), I am writing to you to commend your colleagues on the Standing Committee on Finance for the quality of their recently released pre-budget report, "*Competing to Win*."

The members of the Standing Committee undertook an impressive series of consultations with all parts of Canadian society in the preparation of this report. The CCA is particularly pleased to see recommendations 20 through 23, which address some long-standing issues in the arts and culture sector, as well as the voluntary sector as a whole.

The CCA strongly encourages you and your officials in the Department of Finance to give serious considerations to these and other recommendations of the Standing Committee as prepare the 2007 federal budget.

Also, the recent announcement of additional funds to assist five national cultural institutions in addressing capital improvements is most welcome by the CCA. We see this as a good first step to addressing the concerns expressed by the Auditor General about the state of our national heritage institutions in her November 2003 report. It is the hope of the CCA that this important initiative is a precursor to the implementation of a broader national museums policy and funding program, in order to meet needs of provincial, regional, and municipal museums and heritage institutions across Canada.

Once again, allow me to express our appreciation for the recent work of the Standing Committee on Finance and the announcement regarding the national cultural institutions. I wish to convey to you our collective best wishes for a restful holiday season and a fulfilling new year.

Yours sincerely,

Alain Pineau
National Director

Cc The Right Honorable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister
The Honorable Bev Oda, Minister of Canadian Heritage