



Ottawa, Thursday, May 4, 2006

Hon. James Flaherty
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Flaherty,

On behalf of the Board, membership and staff of the Canadian Conference of the Arts I am writing to congratulate you on the delivery of your first federal budget and to express our appreciation for the increase to the budget of the Canada Council for the Arts.

You have given many people in the arts and culture sector a cause to celebrate by your acknowledgement of the importance of federal investment in the arts. The CCA appreciates the difficult choices facing a Finance Minister in assembling a federal budget and this is doubly true for a new Finance Minister in a newly elected government.

As you will recall from the April 19 pre-budget roundtable in Ottawa, the CCA brought other areas of importance to your attention and we remain optimistic that these issues will be addressed over the coming months. Those issues include expansion of the tax credit for physical activities by young people under 16 to include participation in the arts and culture, as well as the introduction of a policy to exempt artistic income from taxation.

There is also significant needs for funding for a new national museums policy, an area of importance identified by Auditor General Sheila Fraser, as well as increased funding for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The CCA is in the process of assembling the information you requested on the expanded tax credit and it is our hope that this material will be ready for your review by the end of June.

Minister, I wish to extend our appreciation for being involved in the roundtable and also for your commitment to federal funding of the arts through the Canada Council for the Arts. It is our hope that the 2006 federal budget is a first step for Canada to reinvest in the arts and culture sector over the longer term.

Yours sincerely,

Alain Pineau
National Director

C.C. The Hon. Bev Oda, Minister of Canadian Heritage