



March 5, 2007

Hon Michael Fortier
Minister of Public Works and
Government Services Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the President and the Board of Governors of the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA), I am pleased to forward to you some comments related to the development of a Code of Conduct for Procurement within the federal government.

The Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA) is Canada's oldest and most broadly representative umbrella organizations for the arts and culture sector. In our membership can be found cultural labour organizations, producers, and their respective umbrella organizations; individual artists and creators; copyright collectives and arts professionals from every part of Canada, and in every artistic discipline.

The issue of procurement by the federal government has several important dimensions for the arts and culture sector in Canada. Canadian artists and producers have been partners with many different federal government departments and agencies over the decades. From programming on the CBC, entertainment events such as Canada Day celebrations, commissioned audio-visual and multi-media productions, publications, and promotional materials are but some of the forms that have been accommodated through such partnerships.

The Board of Governors of the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA) has invested considerable time over the years addressing issues related to the procurement of artists, creators, producers and producing organizations by the federal government and its departments and agencies. Since 1985, the CCA has promoted the development of status of the artist legislation at the federal level to create a consistent basis for the engagement of professional artists and creators working in areas of federal labour jurisdiction including the government itself.

These efforts led to the passage of the federal *Status of the Artist Act* in 1992 and subsequent negotiations between the federal government and

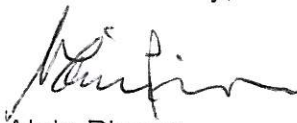
various cultural labour organizations and copyright collectives. The Board of the CCA has asked me to ensure that this important development be brought to the attention of you and your officials as they develop the Code of Conduct for Procurement.

The Board also wished to see a renewed commitment by the federal government to the continued engagement of Canadian artists, creators, and arts professionals where appropriate. Such a commitment should be informed by the federal Status of the Artist Act, but does not preclude the engagement of the services of artists from outside Canada.

Finally, the CCA read with great interest the Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Grants and Contributions that has recently been delivered to the President of the Treasury Board, the Hon. Vic Toews. A key element in that report is the need to develop an accountability framework that is more proportionate to the risk involved in smaller grants, contributions and other contracts. It is the hope of the CCA and its members that the Code of Conduct for Procurement will be inspired by many of the excellent recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel.

On behalf of the Board, Secretariat and membership of the CCA, please allow me to extend our best wishes to you and your colleagues as you develop a new Code of Conduct for Procurement. It is our hope that these suggestions will be helpful in this important task.

Yours sincerely,



Alain Pineau
National Director

cc Hon. Bev Oda, Minister of Canadian Heritage
Hon. Peter Mackay, Minister of Foreign Affairs