



April 26, 2007

The Hon. Bev Oda
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Oda,

On behalf of the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA), I am writing today to encourage you to work with your colleagues to have the Department of Canadian Heritage, as well as its agencies and crown corporations, adopt several of the key recommendations of the final report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Grants and Contributions.

After an extensive consultative process with several organizations across the country, the Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) unearthed many of the concerns that the CCA has been hearing from its members for several years, and we support the findings and recommendations found in the BRP's final report wholeheartedly. Of particular importance is the ability to deliver grants and contributions through a multi-year agreement with funders under an accountability framework that is proportional to the risk and the amount of public funding provided to the organization. This has become *the* key issue faced by the not-for-profit sector if it is to deliver what governments expect of it.

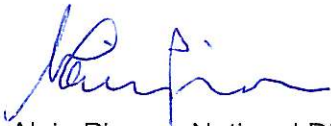
The CCA also endorses the BRP's views that grants and contributions allow not-for-profit organizations to deliver effectively and economically many services to Canadians in partnership with the federal government. This shared commitment to efficient and effective service delivery is a reflection of the democratic system and participation in the public policy discourse.

While it is understood that much of the follow-up to the Blue Ribbon Panel is being undertaken by the Treasury Board with a particular emphasis on administrative processes, the CCA also understands that Departments have complete latitude to implement many of the recommendations within their own sphere of operations. Thus, we encourage you and your officials to do so on the question of multi-year funding to arts and culture organizations, and the development of an accountability framework that reflects the amount of public funds in question on a proportional basis.

For many of the CCA member organizations and other not-for-profit organizations, this would be an extremely welcome and overdue development. Should you or your officials have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further it would be my pleasure to meet with you at your convenience.

On behalf of the membership of the CCA, I thank you in advance for the consideration you will give to this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Alain Pineau, National Director
Canadian Conference of the Arts

- c.c. The Hon. Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board
- c.c. Gary Schellenberger, Chair of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage
- c.c. Maka Kotto, Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage
- c.c. Charlie Angus, Member of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage
- c.c. Ed Fast, Member of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage
- c.c. Tina Keeper, Member of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage
- c.c. Chris Warkentin, Member of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage