

Minister of Canadian Heritage,
Status of Women and Official Languages



Ministre du Patrimoine canadien,
de la Condition féminine et des Langues officielles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5

Mr. Alain Pineau
National Director
Canadian Conference of the Arts
804 – 130 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5G4

OCT - 4 2007

Dear Mr. Pineau:

I am writing in response to your correspondence addressed to my predecessor regarding *From Red Tape to Clear Results: The Report of the Independent Blue Ribbon Panel on Grant and Contributions Programs*.

I appreciate being advised of your organization's views and have noted your comments with respect to the recommendations of the Report. The Department of Canadian Heritage has a particular interest in this initiative since transfer payment programs account for over 80 percent of total annual departmental spending.

The Department of Canadian Heritage is playing a central role in responding to the Report's recommendations. In addition to developing its own action plan, it is involved in all aspects of the Government of Canada's response, including the development of a government-wide action plan, advising on the establishment of a Centre of Expertise in the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, and participation in the Business Review, through which best practices and improvement projects across the federal government are being shared and transformed into pathfinder initiatives to accelerate the implementation of changes and to further horizontality.

Stakeholder consultations, which began during the deliberations of the independent Blue Ribbon Panel, are continuing under the leadership of the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat. I understand that the Canadian Conference of the Arts was represented at the consultation organized with the Public Policy Forum in June 2007. Please be assured that departmental officials who deal with specific groups on a daily basis are being made aware of the influence of the independent Blue Ribbon Panel and will continue to be apprised of any process changes that flow from it.

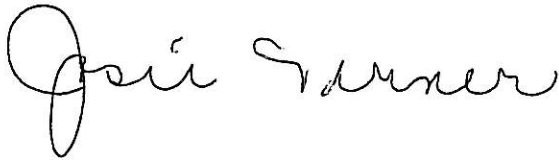
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With respect to the issues of multi-year funding and recipient accountability based on risk mentioned in your correspondence, the Department of Canadian Heritage is investigating possibilities within the existing policy framework and is looking forward to forthcoming revisions to the Treasury Board Policy on Transfer Payments for additional flexibility.

Once again, thank you for sharing your organization's views on the Report. Please be assured that they will be given every consideration as the Government of Canada moves forward with the implementation of the Report's recommendations.

I trust that this information is useful. Please accept my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Josée Verner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

The Honourable Josée Verner, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Vic Toews, P.C., M.P.
Mr. Charlie Angus, M.P.
Mr. Ed Fast, M.P.
Ms. Tina Keeper, M.P.
Mr. Maka Kotto, M.P.
Mr. Gary Schellenberger, M.P.
Mr. Chris Warkentin, M.P.