



DEC 21 2006

Mr. Alain Pineau
National Director
Canadian Conference of the Arts
804 – 130 Albert Street
OTTAWA ON S1P 5G4

Dear Mr. Pineau

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alain", written over the printed name "Alain Pineau".

Thank you for your letter last month in support of the recommendations made by the Minister's Advisory Committee on Status of the Artist (MACSA). I have confidence that the committee's recommendations will, when implemented together, help improve the overall standard of living for artists in Saskatchewan. As well, I share your optimism that the measures put in place in Saskatchewan may prove successful enough to be adopted by other jurisdictions attempting to improve the socio-economic status of artists.

Thank you for commenting on the model of collective bargaining proposed by MACSA. As you may be aware, I have referred the amendments to *The Status of the Artist Act* to the Standing Committee on Human Services. This committee of the Legislative Assembly will hold public hearings early in 2007, where the model of collective bargaining will be debated. Members of the public, including those members of the Saskatchewan arts community who share your views on the proposed model, will have an opportunity to participate in this process.

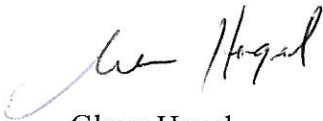
As for your suggestion that the provincial government take action on tax exemptions for grant income, provincial governments do not have the authority to independently introduce tax exemptions. A change of this kind requires consensus among federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions. I have referred the recommendation on tax exemptions to the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on Status of the Artist so that an agreement can be reached on this important issue. Recommendations of the Working Group around taxation will be taken by the Ministers responsible for Culture to the Federal-Provincial Roundtable on Taxation, where such issues are negotiated in Canada.

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As you noted in your letter, legislation is only one element of the comprehensive program developed by MACSA to improve the socio-economic status of artists. In light of this, I am taking care not to focus efforts solely on legislation. Recommendations directed at other government agencies have been positively received. For example, the Government of Saskatchewan has already implemented the Saskatchewan First procurement policy. A number of the other MACSA recommendations are also under consideration as part of the spring budget process.

I am pleased by your positive reaction to the MACSA final report. I have noted your concerns with the proposal on enforceable collective bargaining and anticipate healthy debate during the public hearings in the New Year. The amendments I take forward will be largely guided by the ruling of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Sincerely,



Glenn Hagel
Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation