



**Independent
Media Arts Alliance**
**Alliance des arts
médiatiques indépendants**

July 14th, 2008

Robert Sirman, Director
Canada Council for the Arts
350, Albert Street PO Box 1047
Ottawa, ON K1P 5V8

Dear Mr. Sirman,

I am writing on behalf of the Independent Media Arts Alliance and the National Indigenous Media Arts Coalition, a region within the IMAA national structure that represents Indigenous media arts organizations, collectives and individuals across the country. The purpose of this letter is to strongly recommend increased funding for Indigenous media arts organizations.

The IMAA recently presented ON COMMON GROUND, a National Media Arts Conference and Festival, celebrating Indigenous film, video, audio and new media art by international, national and local artists. This ground-breaking event was held in Kelowna (BC) from June 10 to June 15, 2008 and was a great success, presenting artist talks and the work of many Aboriginal media artists. However, many participants, in particular representatives from NIMAC, pointed out that despite the Canada Council for the Arts making support for Aboriginal art part of its 2008-2011 Action Plan*, several Indigenous media arts organizations with proven track records are still struggling to survive (some have actually folded in the past few years while others are presently in “hibernating” state for lack of sustainable funding).

A special effort must be made to redress this situation. We recommend that funding be directed to the Media Arts section for operating support for Indigenous media arts organizations, and that a plan be developed at the Media Arts section, in consultation with IMAA and NIMAC representatives, that provides for a stepped process that brings organizations from development to operating funding.

We remain committed to work closely and speedily with you to find solutions, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

Francois-Xavier Tremblay
Interim National Director

c.c. Simon Brault – Vice-Chair of the Board
Youssef El Jaï – Head of section, Media Arts

* *“Ensure equity of access to operating support for well-assessed emerging, culturally diverse and Aboriginal arts organizations.”* (Moving Forward – Action Plan 2008-2011, Canada Council for the Arts, page 9)

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