

February 07, 2007

Hon. James Flaherty  
Minister of Finance  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Flaherty,

I am writing to ask that the federal government consider the following recommendations as it prepares its 2007 federal budget.

In its pre-budget report to the Minister of Finance, the Standing Committee on Finance made three recommendations that would have a significant impact on the arts and culture sector. Recommendations 21 through 23 recognize the need for increased support for the not for profit sector and would have a positive outcome for Canadian independent artists.

Specifically, recommendation 22 proposes: *"The federal government should increase funds allocated to the arts and cultural sector. In particular, funding increases should be considered for the Canada Council for the Arts, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the Canadian Television Fund, and Telefilm Canada. Funding for the Canada Council for the Arts should reach \$ 300 million over two years"*

I urge the government to make permanent the one-time \$ 30 million increase to the Canada Council for the Arts designated in the last federal budget and to increase the Canada Council's funding by an additional \$ 100 million annually in the upcoming federal budget.

Government funding must adapt and develop with the changing landscape of artistic creation. As artists are working in more complex mediums such as electronic, Internet, video and multi-disciplinary practices, funding must be increased to match the needs of this new reality while support for the long-established media such as film is essential.

Given the important role of the arts to achieving the government's agenda of economic growth, nation-building and advancing Canada's values and interests internationally, we hope that you will agree with the merits of increased funding to the arts.

Sincerely,

*[insert name, title]*

*[insert name of local arts organization]*

Cc: The Right Honorable Stephan Harper, Prime Minister  
The Honorable Beverley J. Oda, Minister of Canadian Heritage  
Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada  
Stéphane Dion, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada  
Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois  
Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada  
Judy Wasylycia-Leis, Member of Parliament, NDP Finance Critic  
Pierre Paquette, Member of Parliament, Bloc Finance Critic  
John McCallum, Member of Parliament, Liberal Finance Critic