



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

March 3, 2008

The Honourable Josée Verner  
Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mme Verner:

We are writing to contest the amendments to the Income Tax Act in Bill C-10 which would allow the Minister of Canadian Heritage to deny eligibility to tax credits of productions determined to be contrary to public policy.

According to the government's own 1999 report "The Arts and Canada's Cultural Policy"<sup>1</sup>

*"Canadian cultural production has found it hard to flourish without direct or indirect government support."*

The Criminal Code already has mechanisms in place that deal with pornography, the promotion of hate, slander, libel, advocating crime and sundry other elements which have proved adequate in the past to deal with these offenses. The amendments proposed in Bill C-10 constitute censorship.

Thus the withdrawal of access to tax credits would effectively make it impossible to create certain films in Canada. The impact of this amendment is to curtail the freedom of expression in Canada, and we believe that it is an assault on Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Dörner  
National Director

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<sup>1</sup> Library of Parliament, Parliamentary Information and Research Service, "The Arts and Canada Cultural Policy", prepared by Joseph Jackson, R. Lemieux, Political and Social Affairs Division, Revised October 15, 1999