



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

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Sirman,

The IMAA prepared a report for the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage regarding the cuts to arts and culture funding of last summer. We expect to present our results to the committee at the hearings taking place later this month.

I would like to bring to your attention that the loss of certain programs will have enormous impact on the Media Arts section at the Council. Particularly, the loss of the Canadian Independent Film and Video Fund is leaving filmmakers and video artists mid-way through projects. The federal government has put an end date of March 31st of this year for all works, many of which will not get their final installment of funds. There are no alternative funding sources for these artists.

From what I understand, the Media Arts section does not have the resources to fund all of these works let alone administrative resources to deal with such an influx of applications.

The report is enclosed. I am also sending a document to Youssef El Jaï containing results from a survey that includes hundreds of responses from media artists across Canada; evidence that these cuts are severely affecting this sector.

I sincerely hope that the federal government rectifies this serious mistake and reinstates funding to these programs. In the meantime, I am committed to working with you and the media arts section in finding solutions to this predicament.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dorner

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