



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

November 23, 2011

Cecilia Ramirez
Manager, Partnerships and Events
Office national du film | National Film Board
3155, chemin de la Cote-de-Liesse,
Montréal QC H4N 2N4

Dear Ms. Cecilia Ramirez,

I am writing on behalf of the Independent Media Arts Alliance, a national arts service organization representing over 80 independent film, video, and new media production, distribution, and exhibition organizations in all parts of Canada.

Recently, we have heard from several of our members about changes in the *Grants and Contribution Program for Skills and Content Development* offered by the NFB, which has served many of our members over the past decades.

The concerns brought forward are:

- There are no guidelines or clear eligibility criteria available.
- The application form has become unnecessarily cumbersome considering the small amount of funding available.
- It is challenging to find matching funds when this sector is severely under-funded both in terms of government grants and the from the private sector.
- There is a general lack of transparency as to why these changes are being implemented and what kinds of activities will be supported.

Independent media arts organizations are run very efficiently with modest budgets and hard-working staff who are dedicated to providing quality programming, opportunities for artists to advance their careers and events that engage their local communities.

It is my understanding that the program is still in a development phase, as such, is it possible for the NFB to consider the above-mentioned concerns? I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you in more detail.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dorner, National Director

Cc: Tom Perlmutter, Government Film Commissioner and National Film Board of Canada Chairperson

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