

THE CANADIAN ARTS COALITION

LA COALITION CANADIENNE DES ARTS

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Federal infusion to arts will benefit all Canadians, says Coalition

(Montreal) – The Canadian Arts Coalition, a national coalition of artists, arts executives and business leaders praised the federal government’s commitment to significant new funding for the Canada Council for the Arts over the next three years.

In attendance at today’s announcement by Canadian Heritage Minister Liza Frulla, The Canadian Arts Coalition said that the cumulative \$342 million increase would enrich the lives of all Canadians; contribute to the quality of life and economies of communities across Canada and enhance Canada’s image abroad.

Over the past few months, the Coalition has met with Parliamentarians of all parties, appeared before the House of Commons Finance Committee and written newspaper articles advocating a \$5 increase per Canadian in arts funding to be administered by the Canada Council for the Arts. Today, the federal government delivered exactly that with its commitment to a substantial investment. The Canada Council will receive a \$50 million increase to its budget in 2006/07; a \$100 million increase in 2007/08 and \$150 million increase in 2008/09 – effectively doubling the Council’s budget.

“We appreciate without exception that the federal government and Parliamentarians from all across Canada heard and understood our arguments for more arts funding,” says Anne-Marie Jean, Executive Director, Culture Montréal. “We want to commend Minister Frulla, for her leadership in securing this increase in support.”

“Canadians across the country will benefit from this increase in resources to artists and arts companies,” adds Micheline McKay, Executive Director, Opera.ca. “This new funding to the Canada Council will unleash creative endeavour and fuel economic activities in communities far and wide.”

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Association nationale des éditeurs de livres ~ Association of Canadian Publishers ~ Book and Periodical Council ~ Canadian Art Museum Directors Organization ~ Canadian Arts Summit/Sommet Canadien des Arts ~ Canadian Artists Representation/Le front des artistes canadiens ~ Canadian Conference of the Arts/Conférence canadienne des arts ~ Canadian Crafts Federation/Fédération canadienne des métiers d'art ~ Canadian Dance Assembly/Assemblée canadienne de la danse ~ Canadian League of Composers/Ligue canadienne de compositeurs ~ Canadian Museums Association/Association des musées canadiens ~ Conseil québécois du théâtre ~ Council for Business and the Arts in Canada ~ Culture Montréal ~ Greater Vancouver Alliance for Arts and Culture ~ Independent Media Arts Alliance/Alliance des arts médiatiques indépendants ~ Magazines Canada ~ Le Mouvement pour les arts et les lettres ~ Opera.ca ~ Orchestras Canada/Orchestres Canada ~ Periodical Writers Association of Canada ~ Playwrights Guild of Canada ~ Professional Association of Canadian Theatres ~ Regroupement québécois de la danse ~ Union des écrivaines et écrivains québécois ~ The Writers' Union of Canada ~ Société de développement des périodiques culturels québécois ~ Société des musées québécois ~ Théâtres Associés

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Canada's artists and arts organizations are at the creative heart of the \$39 billion cultural sector – an economic force bigger than the agriculture, forestry, mining and oil and gas sectors combined. Public investment is pivotal to the complex financing that supports the arts.

The federal government's primary vehicle for arts funding is the Canada Council for the Arts, which supports 2,200 arts organizations and a similar number of individual professional artists. Since 1998, the Canada Council has seen a 50 per cent increase in the number of applications from arts organizations and a 30 per cent increase from individual artists.

The Canadian Arts Coalition represents a broad range of organizations that believe a significant increase in federal funding for the arts is essential to Canada's future.

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