

January 8, 2006

Steering Committee of
The Canadian Arts Coalition
13 rue Morris Street
Ottawa, ON
K1S 4A6

Dear Coalition Members:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence. I appreciate hearing your comments about funding for the cultural sector and am pleased to offer this letter in response.

The Liberal Government is committed to supporting Canada's vibrant, world renowned arts community. On November 23rd, 2005, the Liberal Government committed \$342 million over the next three years to increase funding for arts organizations throughout Canada, especially in major centres of excellence such as the National Ballet of Canada, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the Canadian Opera Company and the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton. This type of investment helps build vibrant communities that contribute to the social and economic development of every part of Canada.

The Canada Council for the Arts is the principal channel through which the federal government provides support for professional artists and non-profit arts organizations. In 2007, the Canada Council will celebrate its 50th anniversary, making this an appropriate time to celebrate the contributions that creative Canadians have made to our society. The Liberal funding commitments will double the Council's funding so that it will reach \$300 million by 2008.

The new funding will allow the best arts organizations in all regions of Canada to attain new standards of creative excellence and innovation. The increased funding provided for artists' tours and shows, both in Canada and abroad, will enable people from Canada and elsewhere to share the richness of Canada's cultural excellence in all its diversity.

Once again, thank you for writing with your concerns and for the information you provided on autism. I hope that you will find this response to be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Eggen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

President, Liberal Party of Canada