



MUSICAL SEND-OFF!

Vancouver Art Gallery,
Sawagi Taiko • NOW Orchestra •
J. McLaughlin • stiltwalkers, giant
puppets, & more.

CULTURAL ACTING-OUT!

Canadian Heritage Ministry Office
"Jean Chretien" (aka Jacques Lalonde)

LITERARY SPEAK-OUT!

Vancouver Public Library
Nadine Chambers • Wayde Compton •
Susan Crean • Norman Nawrocki •
Andrea Thompson • Veda Hille • and
others WITH MUSIC BY THE
MOLESTICS

saturday,
april 26

Cultural Emergency Mission Statement

Cultural Emergency is a newly-formed, nation-wide coalition of arts organizations, artists, and supporters, organizing around federal, provincial and municipal arts cutbacks. Initiated by the Independent Film & Video Alliance, Cultural Emergency is dedicated to the preservation of an independent Canadian cultural sector through activism and public education.

Non-corporate culture is under attack in Canada. Federal arts funding, hovering at 1.3% of the federal budget, has been cut by over 40% in the past decade. Gone: the NFB Lab, Studio D Women's Film Program, Coach House Press, programs for emerging artists, funding for arts service organizations... Threatened: small presses, independent film/video production, public broadcasting, arms length funding for artists. Yet deep cuts to CBC, Canada Council, the Book Publishing Program, and provincial transfer payments continue. In 1998, the BC government plans to cut arts funding by 25% , and has made major cuts in transfers to municipalities.

Like health, welfare, and education, arts funding has never contributed to a national deficit. Canada's per capita arts spending is among the lowest in the developed world. These cuts are unjustifiable.

It's time for Canadians to speak up for arts funding. We want a thriving and diverse cultural sector to be part of a thriving, diversified Canadian economy. We want to see Canadian independent film, video, dance, theatre, music, and visual art on our movie screens and televisions, and in our galleries. We want artists to be remunerated for their work. We demand that governments actively support the arts and restore adequate funding to the cultural sector.

Otherwise, the damage done to Canadian Culture may be terminal. It's a **cultural emergency**.

Rt. Hon. Jean Cretien
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to express my opposition to ongoing, devastating cutbacks to Canada's arts and cultural sector.

In particular, I wish to urge that funding to Canada Council be immediately restored to 1984-84 levels.

The federal government's combined expenditures on culture have declined by more than 40 per cent since 1984-85. Since 1994-95, your government has cut \$339 million from cultural funding. The magnitude of these cuts seriously threatens independent cultural expression in this country.

Please listen to the voices of Canadians who want adequate, stable funding for arts and culture. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jane Q. Joe, voter
address

KEY POINTS FOR YOUR LETTER

Canada's per capita spending on the arts is among the lowest in the developed world.

This year Canada Council cut staff by more than 22 per cent, from 171 to 132. This has had a direct and negative impact on artists' access to the council.

Cuts to the NFB have forced the closure of the film lab, and Studio D.

Cultural expenditures generate jobs and stimulate economic growth.

Special Thanks

Marusya Bociurkiw
Carol Buchanan
Julia Burns
Nadine Chambers
Cineworks
Wayde Compton
Coat Cook
Susan Green
Rick Erickson
The Fools' Society
Penny Goldsmith
Headlines Theatre
Veda Hille
Leanne Johnson
Laiwan
Jacques Lalonde
Elaine Littman
Rob Kozinuk
Judith Marcuse
Jay McLaughlin
The Molestics

Norman Nawrocki
NOW Orchestra
Judy Radul
Jeannette
Reinhardt
Carolyn Reitzel
Margaret
Reynolds
Randy Rotheisler
Peter Sandmark
Glen Sanford
Sawagi Taiko
Alan Sisman
Andrea Thompson
Vancouver Public
Library
Vern
Teresa Waclawik
and
the staff of
Western Front

“The collective creative drive we call culture is our identity. Nothing else speaks for us.”

Mavis Gallant

“Culture is a social responsibility. To turn arts funding on and off like a tap is a betrayal of the next generation.”

Susan Crean, author

“The Canada Council is the most important source of funding for innovative film and videomaking in this country. Without it, Canadian film/video projects will languish for want of start-up funding.”

John Greyson, Genie award-winning filmmaker

“If Canadians learned that social spending wasn't really the deficit culprit, they might be less willing to accept the drastic spending cuts.”

Linda McQuaig, author, Shooting the Hinn

Members of the Cultural Emergency Coalition

Alliance of Pacific Visual Artists
Artspeak Gallery
Association of Book Publishers of BC
BC Bookworld
Burnaby Art Gallery
Canadian Artists Representation BC
Chilliwack Community Arts Council
Cineworks
Contemporary Art Gallery
DanceArts Vancouver
Federation of BC Writers
Gallery Gachet Society
Gastown Actor's Studio
grunt gallery
Headlines Theatre
Helen.Pitt Gallery
Independent Film/Video Alliance
Jewish Community Centre
Jumpstart Performance
Lazara Press
On Edge Production Society
Or Gallery
Out on Screen Queer Film and Video Festival
Pacific Association of Artis Run Centres
Pacific Baroque Orchestra
Ridge Meadows Arts Council
Satellite Video Exchange Society
Sawagi Taiko
South West Regional Arts Council
Streetwise Productions
Video In
Wise Club
Western Front
Writers' Union of Canada