His Worship Larry Di Ianni  
Mayor  
City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am writing in response to your correspondence to the Honourable Liza Frulla, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Status of Women, regarding federal funding to the arts and culture in Canada.

Ms. Frulla appreciates your advising her of the views of the Hamilton City Council and has noted its comments with respect to this matter. In the 2005 federal budget, the Government of Canada confirmed funding to the Tomorrow Starts Today initiative of the Department of Canadian Heritage in the amount of $960 million over the next five years. This investment represents the most important investment ever made by the federal government in arts and culture. As part of this investment, the Canada Council for the Arts will receive an additional $25 million annually until fiscal year 2009-2010. Its total annual parliamentary appropriation of $151 million will assist the Canada Council to continue its vital role of supporting artists and creators across Canada.

Despite this significant investment in the arts, the Minister recognizes that some Canadian artists and arts organizations continue to face challenges. Officials of the Department of Canadian Heritage are working with those of the Canada Council to better meet the challenge of supporting artistic excellence in Canada.

I trust that this information is useful. Please accept my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Rouleau  
Director  
Ministerial Correspondence Secretariat

Canada