

13 August 2008

Honourable Josée Verner  
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Madame Minister:

It is with great regret that I have learned of your decision to cancel the Trade Routes program at the Department of Canadian Heritage. I would like to inform you of the very serious impact that your decision will have on the work of Canadian performing artists and their representatives in positioning themselves in the international arena.

The withdrawal of the support of your ministry in the development of the performing arts abroad will have irreversible repercussions for the development of the Canadian touring industry in both the short and long-term. More importantly, this decision will be especially damaging for the international face of Canadian culture for many years to come.

I ask you to reconsider your decision to cancel the program and equip Canadian artists with the necessary funds they need to represent Canada internationally.

Sincerely,

Cc Canadian Dance Assembly