

Full Circle



Two New Artists to Discover

This fall brings the excitement of change to the National Arts Centre as two remarkable artists arrive to take up key leadership positions. Here is an inside glimpse at these new personalities whose tenure here will benefit so much from your support as donors.

New Artistic Director for French Theatre

The acclaimed playwright, director and actor Wajdi Mouawad of Montreal is the new Artistic Director of French Theatre, taking over from Denis Marleau who held the position for seven years.

CEO Peter Herrndorf emphasized the importance of the role when he announced the appointment, saying, "The Artistic Director of French Theatre is not only a major player on the National Arts Centre's artistic team, but also a de facto leader in supporting and developing French-language theatre across the country."

A Captivating Storyteller

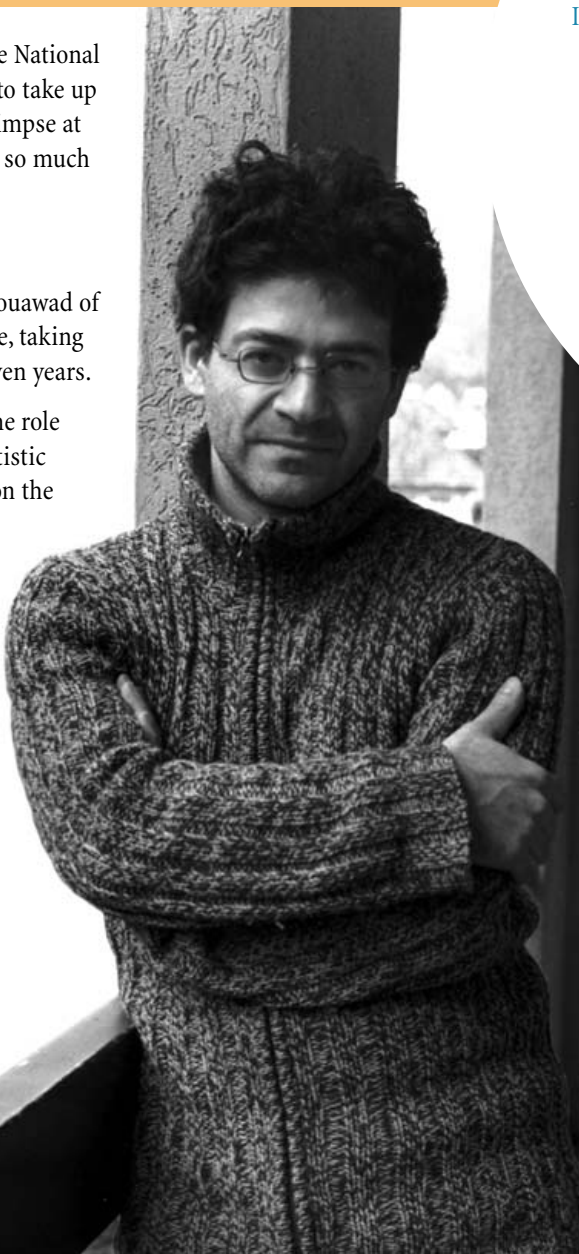
In the last 15 years, Wajdi Mouawad has become known as a uniquely original player on the contemporary theatre scene. He is a prolific creator with more than a dozen plays to his credit; as a director, he has staged classics from the canons of Shakespeare, Chekhov, Euripides and others.

Mr. Mouawad's aim is an open, inclusive theatre that expresses an authentic human experience. He brings a personal sensitivity to the playwright's familiar tools: poetic language, a strong narrative structure, and situations charged with dramatic potential. Collaborations with his NAC artistic colleagues are an exciting possibility, given his interest in contemporary

continued on page 3

Inside

Message from the CEO	2
Investing in R&D for Dance	4
For Generations to Come	5
Your Name in Print	5
The Ark	6
NACO Bursary	7
Our Volunteers	7
Calendar of Events	8




New Artistic Director Wajdi Mouawad has arrived to plan his first French Theatre season, which will open in the fall of 2008.

Photo: Gabor Szilasi



message

from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

 In the world of the performing arts, the beginning of every season represents renewal. But I'm willing to predict that the National Arts Centre's 2007–2008 season will be looked back on as the launch of a full-out artistic revival.

I see it in the constellation of stars who make up our artistic leadership:

- Cathy Levy, presenting another thrilling Dance season enriched by national and international collaboration;
- Wajdi Mouawad, the acclaimed playwright who has just arrived to put his creative stamp on French Theatre;
- Peter Hinton, reshaping English Theatre with his second season and altering the national theatre landscape while he's at it;
- Pinchas Zukerman and the Orchestra, re-energized by welcoming our new concertmaster, 30-year-old Yosuke Kawasaki.

These visionary leaders have more than talent in common. Each of them is dedicated to developing the art form in which they work—by commissioning new works, for example, nurturing emerging artists, initiating cross-Canada artistic collaboration and bringing innovation to the stage.

Then there is the vision and drive of the NAC's chief executive, Peter Herrndorf. He and the Board of Trustees are leading the development of the institution's next strategic plan. It will build on the many successes Peter has already achieved, which include the vital step of creating a fundamental role for philanthropy at the National Arts Centre.

I say "vital" because the potential of this extraordinary alignment of creativity, leadership and vision can be realized only with continuing support from you, our wonderful donors. You are our audiences, ambassadors and all-important critics. But most importantly you give life to everything the National Arts Centre does through your generosity.

So, welcome to the National Arts Centre's 39th season — and thank you for the tremendous contribution you are making to its success. Here's to artistic revival.... You heard it here first!


Darrell Louise Gregersen
CEO, National Arts Centre Foundation

P.S. Your gifts to support performances on our stages, professional development for artists and arts education for young Canadians exceeded \$8 million last season! Thank you!

NAC Foundation

Darrell Louise Gregersen, FAHP
Chief Executive Officer

Jane Moore
Chief Development Officer

Annual Giving Staff 613-947-7000

ext. 315—Donors' Circle
ext. 218—Corporate Club
annualfund@nac-cna.ca

Barry M. Bloom, CFRE
Senior Development Officer,
Annual and Planned Gifts

Marianne Loken
Senior Development Officer,
Major Gifts

Vicki Cummings
Development Officer,
Corporate Gifts and Sponsorship

Cathy Pruefer
Development Officer,
Corporate and Major Gifts

Rachael Wilson
Associate Development Officer,
Annual Fund

Patrick Latreille
Coordinator,
Annual Fund



Two New Artists to Discover, continued from page 1

music and dance; translation initiatives with NAC English Theatre are already being discussed.

Wajdi Mouawad is excited to join the National Arts Centre team. “Succeeding Denis Marleau is a terrifying challenge for me, but also a fantastic opportunity,” he said. If you were in the audience to see his powerful work, *Incendies*, in 2003 or its NAC-commissioned English-language version, *Scorched*, last season, you won’t be in any doubt that Wajdi Mouawad is up to the challenge.

Mr. Mouawad will stage his first season in 2008–2009. Its unveiling in spring 2008 will be one of the most anticipated events of the NAC year.

And, a New Virtuoso for the Orchestra

Violinist Yosuke Kawasaki is the new concertmaster of the National Arts Centre Orchestra. An exceptionally talented musician, he is assuming the role at the relatively young age of thirty, having played the violin since he was six. At the age of ten, he was accepted into The Juilliard School’s pre-college division where he won the school-wide concerto competition. He continued his education at The Juilliard, graduating in 1998.

Yosuke Kawasaki is only the second concertmaster in the Orchestra’s 38-year history. His appointment followed an exhaustive four-year search to fill the shoes of founding concertmaster Walter Prystawski, who retired in June 2006.

This young virtuoso was one of 20 violinists invited during the search to play with the Orchestra as guest concertmaster. When asked to give the recital for Orchestra members required of serious candidates, Mr. Kawasaki performed brilliantly.

Music Director Pinchas Zukerman is delighted at the prospect of working with Yosuke Kawasaki. “The level of musicianship and professionalism that he displays reaches far beyond his years...” he said. “I’m looking forward to making music for many years with Yosuke.”

Mr. Kawasaki has confirmed that the feeling is mutual: “It is an honour for me to have been chosen for this important role in this wonderful orchestra, where I felt at home right away. I have been an admirer of Pinchas Zukerman for years and it is the opportunity of a lifetime to work with him.”

We hope you’ll have a chance to get to know Wajdi Mouawad and Yosuke Kawasaki in the coming months. For more information, please see their biographies online.

www.nac-cna.ca/en/allaboutthenac/nacpeople/index.htm#artistic

www.nac-cna.ca/en/naco/allaboutthenacorchestra/musicianbiography/strings.html

Violin virtuoso Yosuke Kawasaki begins his duties as the NAC Orchestra’s new concertmaster this season.

Photo: Peter Schaaf

Investing in R&D for Dance

The 2007–2008 Dance season is one of the most exciting the National Arts Centre has ever presented. Featuring the best dancers, choreographers and designers from around the world, the lineup includes artists from Canada and 12 other countries: Belgium, China, Cuba, France, Germany, Israel, Monaco, New Zealand, Switzerland, Taiwan, the U.K. and the U.S. In total, 41 performances by 18 different companies are being presented in 4 distinct series.

Donor support is a crucial element in the success of every Dance season. Your gifts, whether designated to Dance or allocated to meet the National Arts Centre's highest priority needs, help make possible what's on the stage now *and* the choreographers and dancers of future seasons. Think of your support as an investment in "research and development" for dance.

For example, three of this season's offerings are NAC co-productions—collaborations with the U.K.'s Akram Khan and Canadian choreographers Crystal Pite and Tedd Robinson. Thanks to your support, NAC Dance is the leading co-producer of new Canadian choreography.



The more than \$2 million our donors have contributed to NAC Dance over the past five years has also helped make possible an impressive range of "behind the scenes" activities such as masterclasses by visiting artists for dance students.

Dance Producer Cathy Levy's long-term goal is to create more new dance works and inspire more young people, by increasing co-productions and expanding education and outreach initiatives. **With your help, she can do it.**

For information about making a gift to support NAC Dance, please contact the Donors' Circle office at 613-947-7000, ext. 315.

For detailed information on Cathy Levy's sizzling dance season, please visit www.nac-cna.ca/en/dance/index.html.

Last Action by Vancouver choreographer Crystal Pite and her company Kidd Pivot. This NAC co-production will be performed from November 8th to 10th in the Studio.

Photos: Chris Randle



A Bequest for Generations to Come

Elizabeth Taylor grew up in Digby, Nova Scotia, the Bay of Fundy port two and a half hours' drive from Halifax. The coastal community provided a wonderful setting for childhood, but its small size and relative remoteness meant Elizabeth had little exposure to the arts when growing up.

She knows there is a pressing need for arts education now as well. "I'm keenly aware that performing arts experiences are very limited for young Canadians outside our major cities, and even for many who live in urban centres," she says.

Elizabeth wants to be a part of changing that so she has included a bequest to the National Arts Centre Foundation in her will. She is confident the National Arts Centre is laying the groundwork for future young Canadians to receive a well-rounded

education in the performing arts, and opportunities for in-depth learning, too.

The Music Ambassador Programme for rural schools illustrates the NAC's efforts to meet the Canada-wide need for arts education. This outreach project engaged more than 19,000 school children in Alberta and Saskatchewan in its first two years. Plans to establish the programme in partnership with orchestras in British Columbia, Manitoba, and then eastern Canada are being developed. The programme is completely donor-funded through the National Youth and Education Trust, and its hoped-for expansion will also rely on the generosity of our donors.

Elizabeth speaks with passion about its potential: "This is exactly the kind of initiative I want my bequest to support. It's

young Canadians in places like Digby who I really want to help."

A long-time NAC Foundation annual donor, Elizabeth likes the fact that adding a bequest to her giving will create even greater impact for young people—for generations to come.

For information about making a bequest to the National Arts Centre Foundation, please contact Barry M. Bloom at 613-947-7000, ext. 314.

"My philosophy of life? Discover what matters to you, embrace it with vigour to the end of your days and be sure to leave something of it behind for others to enjoy."

Elizabeth Taylor

Photo: Patrick Latreille



Your Name in Print: Demystifying Donor Recognition

Publicly acknowledging our donors by publishing donor names is an important part of thanking you for your gifts. Your generous support of the performing arts deserves to be recognized!

But our regular donor lists in *Prélude* magazine have created some confusion so we've set out to simplify how we publicly thank you.

The new programme will acknowledge our donors based on both **annual gifts** and **lifetime cumulative giving**.

Your annual giving will continue to be recognized through the National Arts Centre Foundation's two philanthropic giving clubs—the Donors' Circle and Corporate Club. The amount of your annual gift determines your membership level for a year.

The importance of your sustaining support over a lifetime of giving is currently represented on the Foundation's Donor Wall in the NAC Foyer, opposite Southam Hall. Cumulative gifts are represented by Gem levels—Pearls, Sapphires, Rubies, Emeralds and Diamonds.

Beginning in 2007–2008, a "lifetime cumulative gifts" list (Gems) will be published in two issues of *Prélude* magazine, beginning at the Sapphire level. (Our Pearls will continue to have pride of place on the Donor Wall.) The other four issues of *Prélude* will recognize annual giving by publishing Donors' Circle and Corporate Club lists.

If you have questions about how your support is being recognized, please contact the Donors' Circle office at 613-947-7000, ext. 315.

The Ark: An Inside Look at Artistic Leadership

The Ark, Artistic Director Peter Hinton's innovative three-week theatre development project, will be held for the second time this October in Ottawa. Some of Canada's finest actors, directors, dramaturges, playwrights and a historian will be joined by nine second-year acting students from the National Theatre School. Together, they will explore a body of work for future production by the NAC English Theatre. It will be a creative learning experience for everyone involved.

The centrepiece of their investigation will be *Vox Lumina*, the NAC-commissioned play about the 12th century abbess, Hildegard von Bingen, written by award-winning playwright Paula Wing, herself a graduate of the National Theatre School.

Artist, composer, poet, theologian and visionary, Hildegard has been called "the most important woman of her time." The Ark culminates in a single evening performance.

The student actors who participated in last season's Ark were thrilled by the experience. For Brendan McMurtry-Howlett, the project was "absolutely incredible. It gave me the opportunity to become part of a community of actors with such talent and history." After The Ark, Sherry Bie of the National Theatre School pronounced the students arriving back at school "ready to take on the world."

This intensive theatre lab also contains the seed of an idea that is central to Peter Hinton's artistic vision for the National

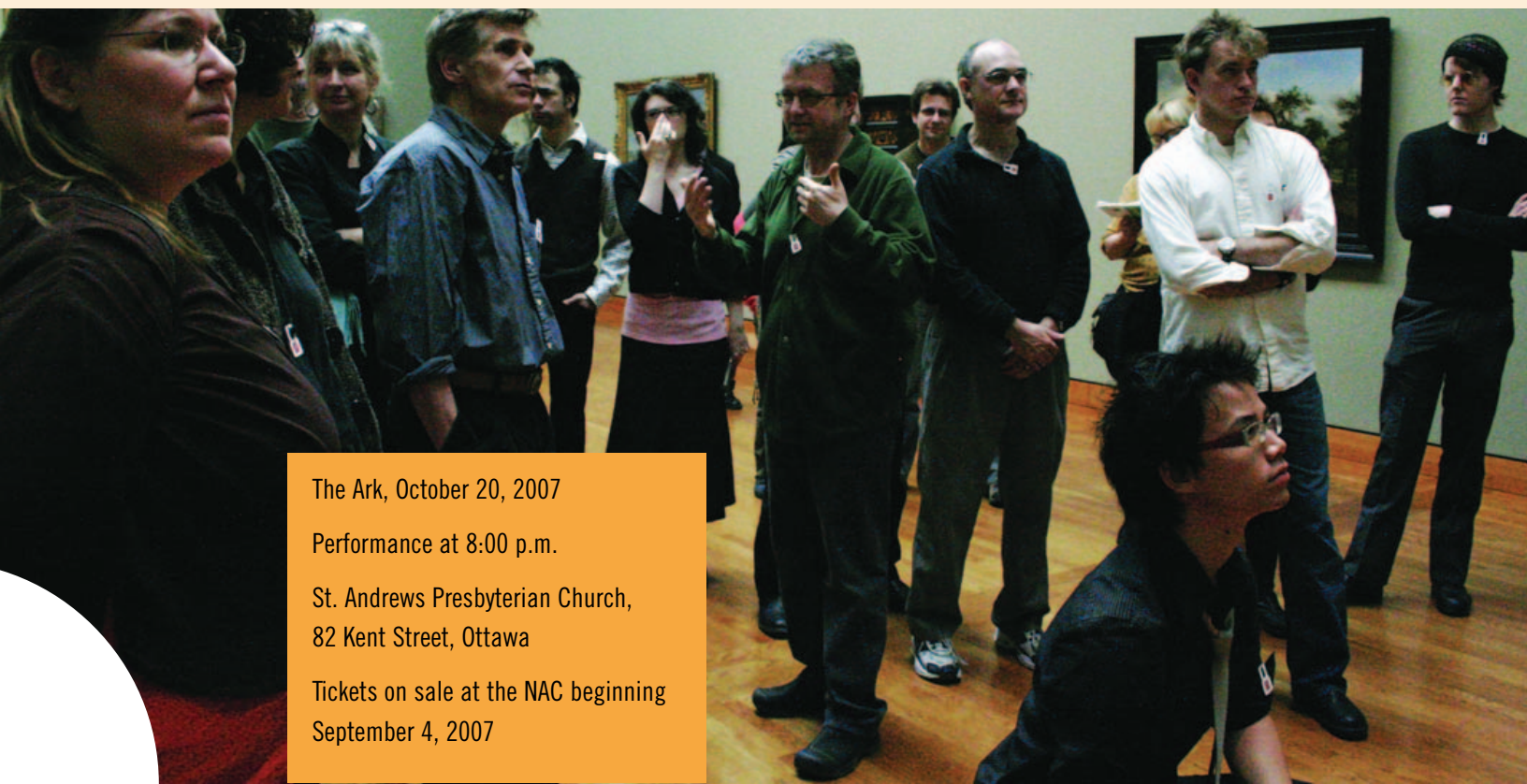
Arts Centre: To become a national theatre for Canada.

What form a national theatre should take, and whether it is possible or even desirable, is regularly debated in theatres across the country. Peter Hinton isn't waiting for answers. He is taking the lead by creating works of relevance, significance and scale; collaborating with Canada's leading theatre artists; and nourishing emerging theatre talent.

Your support has helped create a unique opportunity for students and professionals to work together on theatre research and development. Canada's theatre community will be watching with interest.

The Ark company and David Dean, a professor in the department of History at Carleton University, explore art history at the National Art Gallery.

Photo: Allegra Fulton



The Ark, October 20, 2007

Performance at 8:00 p.m.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church,
82 Kent Street, Ottawa

Tickets on sale at the NAC beginning
September 4, 2007

Young Artists Compete for Donor-Funded Prizes

In May 2007, donors watched with interest as 22-year-old-cellist Thaddeus Morden was selected from a field of 24 Ottawa-area musicians, ages 16 to 24, to receive the top prize of \$7,000 in the 2007 NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition.

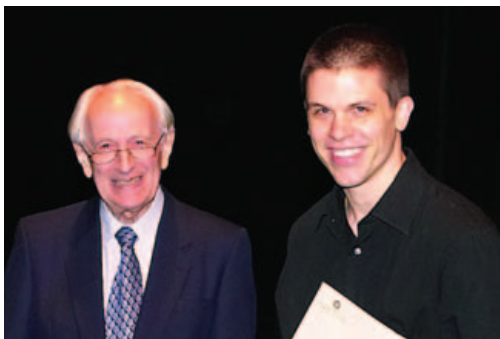
“This is my sixth year in the competition,” Thaddeus said. “It’s hard work but it is truly an honour to win. The prize will make a big contribution to my education.”

This year’s winner is currently an undergraduate in music at McGill University in Montreal and has also studied with NACO principal cello, Amanda Forsyth, and former NACO member,

Donald Whitten. He hopes to apply his winnings to the cost of graduate studies.

The 2006 winner, bassoonist Gareth Thomas, applauds the National Arts Centre for this programme. “Winning this award was a huge help. As a student in the United States [at the Cleveland Institute of Music], I appreciate anything that helps with the considerable expense of my music education.”

The NACO Bursary Competition was first held in 1981. The bursary was created by the musicians of the NAC Orchestra as a gesture of appreciation to the audiences who had been so supportive of the Orchestra’s first decade. Its aim is to provide financial support and recognition to further the development of young orchestral musicians who have ties to the National Capital Region as they progress in music studies. This successful programme relies on the contributions of generous donors and dedicated volunteers from the Orchestra and the community.



Bursary committee Chair, Vernon G. Turner, presents the top prize to the 2007 winner, cellist Thaddeus Morden.
Photo: Michel Dozois



Bassoonist Gareth Thomas was the 2006 National Arts Centre Orchestra Bursary winner.
Photo: Alan Dean

Volunteers – The Heart and Soul of the NAC Foundation

Perhaps you’ve met them in the Donor Lounge on a performance night. You’ve undoubtedly received one of the thousands of letters or brochures they carefully fold and stuff each year.

They are the volunteers of the National Arts Centre Foundation. In concert with our donors, they really make the Foundation tick. In fact, many of our volunteers are also donors. Volunteering is another way for them to express their passion for the arts.

Rita Fouillard, a long-time Foundation volunteer, enjoys her role as host—meeting and greeting donors in the Donor Lounge. In her words, “I work with and meet so many special people who share my love of the theatre. It is such a magical place to be... a world of imagination and genius.”










In addition to serving as ambassadors for the Foundation, some volunteers are the dedicated experts we call on when key tasks require care and attention to detail. Maryse Robillard, for example, meticulously assembles every customized package we send to new donors to welcome them into our donor family.

So the next time you encounter one of our smiling volunteers, please be sure to pass along a heartfelt “thanks.”

If you are interested in volunteering with the Foundation, or with one of the NAC departments that welcome volunteer contributions, please visit

www.nac-cna.ca/en/allaboutthenac/careeropportunities/volunteer.cfm.

Calendar of Events

DATE & TIME	EVENT/SPECIAL INFORMATION	INVITATION ONLY	PRODUCERS	DIRECTORS	MAESTROS	PLAYWRIGHTS	BENEFACTORS	SUSTAINERS	ASSOCIATES
September 22, 2007 1:00 p.m. Panorama Room FREE	The Hinterviews Peter Hinton and Deborah Shaw, Associate Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, discuss the making of an international coproduction.								
September 23, 2007 1:00 p.m. NAC Foyer	Book Signing with Margaret Atwood Copies of <i>The Penelopiad</i> (both book and play) will be available for purchase.								
September 23, 2007 2:00 p.m. NAC Studio Tickets \$22.50 each	Celebrity Speakers Series featuring Margaret Atwood Arts journalist Laurie Brown will interview the author. Tickets are available at the NAC Box Office and Ticketmaster.								
September 24, 2007 10:00 a.m. Canadian War Museum FREE	Planned Giving Seminar Information session on estate planning and charitable giving sponsored by the NAC Foundation and eight other organizations								
September 29, 2007 6:30 p.m. Southam Hall Tickets from \$75	National Arts Centre Gala Tickets on sale now at the NAC Box Office and Ticketmaster.								
October 11, 2007 Time TBD Le Salon	Donor Open Rehearsal — Dance: Diavolo Dance Theater								
October 23, 2007 6:45 p.m. The Circles Lounge	Donor Preview — French Theatre: <i>Othello</i>								
October, date TBD	Black & White Opera Soiree Priority Ticket Window								
November 15, 2007 6:45 p.m. Le Salon	Donor Preview — English Theatre: <i>Dying to be Sick</i> With translator and Artistic Producer of Pleiades Theatre, John Van Burek								
November 22, 2007 7:15 p.m. Le Salon	Donor Open Rehearsal — Dance: Pina Bausch Tanztheater Wuppertal								
December 11, 2007 6:45 p.m. The Circles Lounge	Donor Preview — French Theatre: <i>L'Iliade</i>								
January 9, 2008 9:15 a.m. Le Salon	Donor Open Rehearsal — NACO: Tchaikovsky and Midori								

For further information or to register for any of the events above, please contact:

National Arts Centre Foundation
53 Elgin Street, P.O. Box 1534, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1P 5W1

www.nac-cna.ca/donors
annualfund@nac-cna.ca
613-947-7000, ext. 315