



Canadian Conference of the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

MPs Talk Advocacy with the Arts and Cultural Sector

For Immediate Release

Ottawa, April 13th, 2005 - Members of Parliament representing each of Canada's four federal political parties will debate the merits of various advocacy strategies as part of this Friday's Chalmers Conference, organized by the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA). The panelists, including **Ed Broadbent** (NDP, Ottawa-Centre), **Sarmite Bulte** (Parliamentary Secretary, Canadian Heritage, Parkdale-High Park), **Bev Oda** (CPC, Canadian Heritage Critic), and **Maka Kotto** (BQ, Canadian Heritage Critic), will debate questions put to them by CPAC's "Talk Politics" host, **Ken Rockburn**, before a captive audience of representatives from the arts and cultural sector's major organizations.

This year's Chalmers Conference, to be held April 15th at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, will include two panel discussions and several presentations from industry specialists, and is intended to provide delegates with a clearer understanding of the workings of government and the parliamentary process. The breakfast will feature guest speaker **Wendy Lill**, who will draw on her background as both a playwright and a former NDP MP to discuss how arts and cultural organizations can get their messages heard on Parliament Hill.

"This type of information is essential in the arts and cultural sector," stated CCA National Director Jean Malavoy. "An understanding of such processes is an important element in ensuring the best use of an organization's advocacy energies and dollars."

Many in the arts and cultural sector breathed a sigh of relief when renewed funding for *Tomorrow Starts Today* was announced in the February 2005 Federal Budget. CCA, though grateful for the fiscal commitment, was quick to caution that this provides only a temporary hiatus for the sector. This year's Chalmers Conference is designed to further equip arts and cultural organizations with the knowledge and information required for ongoing advocacy. "This is a must-attend event for organizations wishing to influence the federal policy agenda and affect positive change in Canada's cultural sphere," Malavoy indicated.

For information on individual panelists and for a more detailed description of the day's events, please visit CCA's website at: <http://www.ccarts.ca/en/events/chalmers2005.htm>

The Canadian Conference of the Arts is Canada's national forum for the arts and cultural community. The CCA is a leader in the defence of artists' rights, an authority on public policy in arts and culture, and a catalyst for debate and action within the sector.

For more information, or to confirm your attendance at this conference:

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