

*For immediate release*

## **Canadian Public Arts Funders (CPAF) Welcome Federal Government's Commitment to Invest in Canadian Arts and Culture**

*Yellowknife, November 17, 2015* – Representatives of arts councils and equivalent public arts funders from across Canada met in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, from November 11-13, 2015, on the occasion of the Canadian Public Arts Funders (CPAF) 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

The CEOs/Directors, senior staff and Chairs of CPAF welcomed the public release of the mandate letter from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to new Minister of Canadian Heritage Mélanie Joly on November 13. The letter outlines the federal government's priorities to provide significant new support to Canadian arts and culture.

“This unprecedented investment by the federal government will transform the arts and cultural sector, which contributes \$47.7 billion to the country's economy,” said Peter Caldwell, Chair of the CPAF Steering Committee and Director & CEO of the Ontario Arts Council. “These commitments are a strong endorsement of the contribution of the arts to Canadian communities, the economy, and quality of life. The arts are a reflection of who we are as Canadians, in all our diversity. We understand from the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that the arts and culture are a critical element of reconciliation, defining new relationships that will move our country forward.”

CPAF members also welcomed the mandate letter from the Prime Minister to Andrew Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure, which calls for a 10-year plan to deliver significant new infrastructure funding to provinces, territories and municipalities, including for cultural infrastructure.

During the meeting, the CPAF members acknowledged the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Northwest Territories Arts Council, and its history of supporting the territory's outstanding artists. Throughout the meeting, the group had the opportunity to experience the vitality and diversity of the artistic work in the territory through the NWT artists' showcase and the opening of the exhibit *30 Years of Art: An NWT Arts Council Celebration* at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

With a current combined budget of approximately \$442 million dollars in 2015, CPAF aims to foster and support the arts in Canada through cooperation and collaboration of the federal, provincial and territorial arts councils and equivalent public arts funders by increasing networking and partnership opportunities, sharing information and best practices, and commissioning research. Launched in 2005, there is a CPAF member organization in each province and territory in Canada. The federal member of the network is the Canada Council for the Arts.

For more information about CPAF and its mission, members, and activities, visit [www.cpaf-opsac.org](http://www.cpaf-opsac.org).

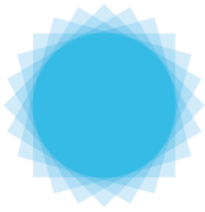
The next CPAF Annual General Meeting will take place in 2016 in Victoria, British Columbia.

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CPAF  
Canadian  
Public Arts  
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OPSAC  
Organismes publics  
de soutien aux arts  
du Canada

# Communiqué

## The 14 CPAF member organizations are:

- Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- British Columbia Arts Council
- Canada Council for the Arts
- Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec
- Government of Yukon, Department of Tourism and Culture, Cultural Services Branch (Yukon Arts Advisory Council)
- Government of Nunavut, Department of Culture and Heritage
- Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Education, Culture and Employment (Northwest Territories Arts Council)
- Manitoba Arts Council
- Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (ArtsNL)
- New Brunswick Arts Board (artsnb)
- Arts Nova Scotia (ArtsNS)
- Ontario Arts Council
- Prince Edward Island Council of the Arts
- Saskatchewan Arts Board