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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Vote is in...



Thanks to the tenacity of ACTRA members across this country, most politicians found it hard to hide from culture in this election. At the outset, it was clear that getting our message out and putting culture on an already crowded agenda would be an uphill battle. Many politicians would prefer not to talk about culture and the arts. Some don't consider it important. Even more sinister are those who prefer to keep their plans under wraps....

However, yet again performers accomplished the near-impossible and got culture and Canada's cultural future on the election agenda. In the national media, in town hall meetings, on doorsteps, on call-in shows, politicians were confronted by performers who wanted to know where they stood on Canada's cultural future. Every performer and artist in this country owes a [debt](#) of thanks to each of you who spoke out publicly to put culture on the agenda.

With a Liberal minority, balanced by the NDP and Bloc – who both voiced strong support for ACTRA's cultural objectives during the election – we stand a great chance of making sure that culture stays on the agenda. We need to remain vigilant and continue to fight foreign ownership, ensure the CRTC is directed to review its 1999 Television Policy and give artists a chance to earn a living in Canada by getting federal income [tax-averaging](#) rules reinstated.

Our efforts during the election offer a small glimmer of what we are capable of achieving. The days of ignoring the voices of performers and other artists are over. ACTRA members have proved themselves to be a passionate and persistent lot; we will be there every step of the way as the new government's agenda unfolds.



Thor Bishopric
ACTRA President