



December 7<sup>th</sup> 2005

Mr. Jack Layton  
Leader of the New Democratic Party  
300 - 279 Laurier West,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5J9

*via Regular Mail & Email*

[Layton.J@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Layton.J@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Mr. Layton:

On behalf of 21,000 Canadian professional performers represented by ACTRA, I am writing to ask that your Party's platform in this federal election address a cultural policy for Canada and certain important issues that affect the future of Canada's film and television industry.

ACTRA members are an integral part of the cultural industry that employs over 150,000 Canadians in virtually every community across Canada. The film and television industry represents billions of dollars in economic activity within Canada, and is responsible for the export of Canadian-made cultural products around the world. Over many decades, Canada has benefited from public policies designed to ensure that our cultural products inhabit a place of pride in our broadcasting system, in our movie theatres, on our stages, in our art galleries and concert halls. These policies have been created, implemented and sustained under governments of many colours, both federal and provincial.

ACTRA is looking for your assurance that your Party's platform supports a vibrant Canadian culture and that your Party will make a strong commitment to the protection and promotion of Canadian cultural sovereignty by adopting the following three principles:

- **Canadian content regulations in broadcasting and distribution must be strengthened, including reinstating minimum drama content and expenditure requirements on Canada's private broadcasters.**
- **Existing rules requiring majority Canadian ownership of Canadian telecommunications and broadcasting must be maintained.**
- **Enhanced, permanent and stable public financial support for Canada's cultural industries must be provided, particularly support for public broadcasting through the CBC, and television drama financed through the Canadian Television Fund.**

ACTRA wants your Party to adopt these three principles that will help to ensure that Canada's culture remains Canadian.

ACTRA will be monitoring your Party's platform in this election to see if your Party proposes programs that promote Canadian cultural sovereignty. ACTRA will inform our 21,000 members about your Party's commitment to Canadian culture based upon the level of support for Canadian culture and the cultural industries contained in your Party's platform.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Waddell", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stephen Waddell  
National Executive Director

Cc: Charlie Angus, Timmins -James Bay,Ontario

**Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists**

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Affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)  
and the International Federation of Actors (FIA)

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