



JUL 3 1 2017

Ms. Sandra Battaglini
sandra.battaglini@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Battaglini:

Thank you for your correspondence addressed to the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, indicating that you had not received a response to your letter regarding funding for comedians, and requesting that the process to access working opportunities in the United States be simplified. Please excuse the delay in my reply.

I am pleased to enclose a copy of Minister Joly's February 14, 2017, reply to you.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

France S. Tremblay-Goban
for

Manon Côté
Director
Ministerial Correspondence Secretariat

Enclosure



Minister
of Canadian Heritage



Ministre
du Patrimoine canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5

FEB 14 2017

Ms. Sandra Battaglini
sandra.battaglini@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Battaglini:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding funding for comedians and requesting that the process to access working opportunities in the United States be simplified. I appreciate your taking the time to write on this matter. Please excuse the delay in my reply.

The Government of Canada recognizes the crucial role that the arts and culture play in making a vibrant and strong Canada. The arts and culture define us and enhance the quality of life in our communities. Artists play an essential role in our society, bringing us together and giving us a truly Canadian perspective on ourselves and the world we live in. That is why in Budget 2016, we announced close to \$1.9 billion in funding for culture, including \$550 million over five years for the Canada Council for the Arts.

We recognize the contribution of comedy to Canada's artistic landscape and are pleased to support organizations such as Montréal's École nationale de l'humour through the Canada Arts Training Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Information about this program is available at canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1427373564180.

Likewise, through the Canada Arts Presentation Fund (CAPF), the Department supports presenters of professional arts festivals and performing arts series in Canada, which includes comedy as part of their artistic programming. For example, the CAPF has been supporting, for many years, a number of comedy festivals, including the Just for Laughs festival, one of the world's leading comedy festivals. More information about the CAPF is available at canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1452621893765.

Please note that the Department does not have any programs that provide direct financial assistance to individual artists. However, the Canada Council for the Arts is an independent federal Crown corporation mandated to foster and promote the study, enjoyment and production of works in the arts. Therefore, I suggest that you consult the Canada Council website at canadacouncil.ca for information on its assistance programs.

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With respect to accessing working opportunities in the United States, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of our correspondence to the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of International Trade, for their consideration.

I also noted your comments regarding the consultations on Canadian content in a digital world. These consultations improve our understanding of the challenges associated with the changing media landscape, as well as the opportunities they create. I have been pleased to see individuals and organizations from all artistic backgrounds actively participate in these consultations, which ended on November 25, 2016.

The range of viewpoints received during these consultations will give us an opportunity to assess all the cultural measures offered by the Government of Canada. In this context, the Government will be able to determine how to help the cultural sector handle these changes and take advantage of the opportunities for innovation and economic growth across Canada. We believe that it is time to review the Government's role so that it can help Canada's creative sector adapt and become a cultural world leader.

Thank you for your contribution to a creative Canada. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Joly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.