

Canada's Artists

Recommendation No. 6

The Committee recommends that the Department of Canadian Heritage invite its counterparts in provincial governments to put in place complementary legislation relating to the status of the artist.

Response: Action could be taken.

Provinces, municipalities and the voluntary sector are all partners, with their own important roles to play in encouraging Canada's cultural sector. Sometimes, a comprehensive response requires action at more than one level of government. Status of the Artist legislation is a reflection of these dynamic relationships. The federal Status of the Artist Act received Royal Assent on June 23, 1992. Part I (General Principles) states the Proclamation and Policy concerning the Status of the Artist, whereby the Canadian Government recognizes the importance of artists in Canadian society and guarantees their freedom of association, recognizes the importance of their respective contributions to the cultural life of Canada and ensures the protection of their rights. This Part is under the responsibility of the Minister of Canadian Heritage. Part II (Professional Relations) establishes a framework to govern professional relations between artists and producers and is under the responsibility of the Minister of Labour.

With the exception of federal institutions and broadcasting undertakings licensed by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), professional relations concerning the status of the artist fall within provincial jurisdiction. Preceding the implementation of the federal Act, the province of Quebec had already adopted such legislation. The issue has been addressed in British Columbia through amendments to related legislation.

In recognition of the importance of Canada's artists, the Government supports complementary or similar legislation to Part II of the federal Status of the Artist Act enacted on the provincial and territorial levels. To encourage provinces and territories to examine the adoption of similar legislation, the Department of Canadian Heritage will encourage presentations on this subject in the forum of the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Heritage.

Document Source:

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/ac-ca/progs/rc-tr/progs/dpci-tipd/pubs/experience/r06-e.htm>