



Montreal, July 8, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada

Subject: Canadian Cultural Sovereignty Must Remain Untouchable in Ongoing Trade Negotiations

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the members of the [Coalition for the Diversity of Cultural Expressions](https://cdce-cdce.org) (CDCE), we wish to reiterate Canadians' deep commitment to the cultural exemption and the policies it enables to protect our cultural sovereignty, one that is exercised with respect for the country's linguistic duality as well as Indigenous cultures and languages.

For 25 years, the CDCE has brought together the main French- and English-speaking professional organizations in Canada's cultural sector, spanning audiovisual, music, publishing, and the visual, performing, and digital arts. The CDCE advocates for the implementation of effective cultural policies in the context of globalization. Representing more than 350,000 creators and artists and over 3,000 cultural enterprises across the country, the CDCE is equally concerned with the economic health of the cultural sector and the vitality of cultural creation. In particular, it focuses on how culture is treated in trade agreements and on the impact of the digital environment on the diversity of cultural expressions, ensuring that public policies actively protect and support our cultural ecosystem.

The CDCE and several of its members played a key role in the public and parliamentary debates that led to the adoption of the *Online Streaming Act*. In this regard, we draw your attention to a [document](#) reflecting the support of dozens of cultural organizations across the country. This long-awaited legislative modernization, called for by Canadian industries, represents a major step forward.

In April 2023, upon the adoption of Bill C-11, [the CDCE highlighted](#) that Canada had joined a growing number of countries adopting laws to regulate digital platforms in order to protect and promote the diversity of their cultural expressions. As is already the case for traditional media, streaming services—both audiovisual and audio—as well as social media are now required to contribute significantly to the creation, production, and promotion of Canadian music, shows, and films, while taking into account the country's diversity.

In other words, this modernized *Broadcasting Act* is a cornerstone of our cultural sovereignty, and a vital policy for preserving the vibrancy of Canadian and Quebec culture, as well as that of official language minority communities and Indigenous peoples.

We are aware that your government is currently engaged in critical trade negotiations with the United States, and we wish to emphasize the importance of implementing, without compromise, the clear commitments your government made during the most recent federal election campaign. On April 1, 2025, in [The Globe and Mail](#), you stated that you had drawn clear red lines on certain issues in the context of negotiations with the United States, and notably reaffirmed that “The French language and Canadian culture, including Quebec culture, and supply management will never be on the table”.

Canadian culture, in all its richness and diversity, must remain untouchable in the current negotiations. Finally, we must recall that Canada is a global leader when it comes to the cultural exemption and the recognition of states’ sovereign right to protect and promote their cultures. This leadership was powerfully demonstrated through Canada’s key role in the creation of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. As the first country to ratify the Convention, Canada continues to play a driving role in its implementation, as demonstrated most recently by Minister Guilbeault’s participation in the 10th session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention in June, where Canada supported measures aimed at strengthening states’ capacity to act in the digital environment.

We are confident that your government will remain a staunch defender of Canada’s cultural industries, and we would be pleased to discuss this matter further with you. We will contact your team to organise a meeting shortly.

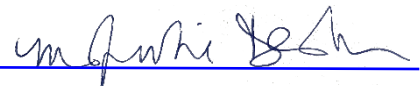
Please accept, Prime Minister, the expression of our highest consideration.



Hélène Messier
CDCE Co-Chair



Bill Skolnik
CDCE Co-Chair



Marie-Julie Desrochers
Executive Director

cc:

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc

Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs, and One Canadian Economic ;
and

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault

Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture

Minister responsible for Official Languages

CDCE members and signatories

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Saskatchewan Arts Alliance

Screen Composers Guild of Canada
 Société civile des auteurs multimedia
 Société de gestion collective des droits des producteurs d'enregistrements sonores et de vidéoclips
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 Société des auteurs et compositeurs dramatiques
 Société professionnelle des auteurs et des compositeurs du Québec
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