



Associated Designers of Canada

February 9, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C. M.P.
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development
and Disability Inclusion

The Honourable Diane LeBouthillier, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Revenue Canada

Dear Prime Minister and Ministers,


On behalf of the Creative Industries Coalition comprised of IATSE (live performance & film/TV crew); Canadian Federation of Musicians; Canadian Actor' Equity Association (live performers); and Associated Designers of Canada (theatre designers) we would like to thank you and all your colleagues across government who reviewed and corrected issues raised about the repayment of CERB benefits for self-employed workers. We represent the 50,000 cultural workers in the live performance sector. The first to go down in the pandemic, we will be the last to get up. The Canadian Emergency Response Benefit meant that our members could feed themselves and their families, have shelter and survive. As we transitioned off the CERB and onto the CRB and an expanded EI, your government's work has meant that they will continue to have financial support.


Our members are eager to get back to work, to continue to be the first-class performers and workers that they are and aspire to be. But until that time, they have needed and gotten support from the Government of Canada. We are all grateful.

With the steady arrival of vaccines, we know that someday they will return to perform, design, light, rig, dress, and prepare for audiences and work. But in the meantime, your efforts, support and consideration mattered. We have been particularly pleased with your ability to pivot and shift with the changing times of the pandemic.

Thank you. We will meet again.

Sincerely,


John M. Lewis
IATSE


Arden R. Ryshpan
Canadian Actors' Equity Association


Alan Willaert
Canadian Federation of Musicians


Ken MacKenzie
Associated Designers of Canada