



April 15, 2010

Object : An open letter to galleries in the Maritimes

Dear gallery director :

L'Association acadienne des artistes professionnels du Nouveau-Brunswick (AAAPNB) and CARFAC Maritimes (Canadian Artists Representation / le Front des artistes canadiens) are two associations which advocate for the rights of artists, toward the improvement of their socio-economic wellbeing.

Toward this end, CARFAC, with the aid of some of its members, has developed, and negotiated, with Canadian galleries, an exhibition Fee Schedule.

It is in this spirit that we send you this letter. Its aim is to introduce public galleries to the importance of paying artists' fees to professional visual artists. As workers, artists have a right to economic conditions that reflect the value of their professional contribution, just as do workers in any other professional field.

A study by Hill Strategies paints a sombre picture of the socio-economic situation of artists, as seen in the 2001 census from Statistics Canada: in the Maritime Provinces the average revenue of practicing visual artists was \$13,371.¹

We congratulate you if your gallery pays exhibition fees to your featured artists, and doubly so if these payments accord with CARFAC's recommendations ! If so, you are contributing to improved socio-economic conditions for our artists. Please visit CARFAC's website for fees at <http://www.carcc.ca/feeschedules.html>

If you have any questions or comments on this subject, we invite you to contact us. We would welcome a chance to discuss this important topic with you, considering the contribution made by our public galleries toward artistic and cultural dynamism in the Maritimes.

Susan Tooke, Présidente / CARFAC Maritimes,

Georgette Bourgeois,

Représentante des arts visuels / Association acadienne des artistes professionnels du Nouveau-Brunswick
Membre du conseil d'administration de CARFAC Maritime

Carmen Gibbs, Directrice générale /

Association acadienne des artistes professionnels du Nouveau-Brunswick

¹ HILL STRATÉGIES RECHERCHE, *Regards statistiques sur les arts*, vol. 3, no 2, octobre 2004.