

A public meeting would allow all members of the Board to be exposed to the opinions and concerns of the regional community and would be an effective means for interested constituencies to comment on the Centre's policies and programming.

Recommendation 10

That the Board of Trustees of the National Arts Centre amend its by-laws to require the holding of at least one Board meeting each year open to the public at which a quorum of the members of the Board and senior management will be present.

The National Arts Centre Orchestra is the only resident company left at the Centre. It alone enables the Centre to fulfill the following object of its legislation: "In furtherance of its objects...the Corporation may...encourage and assist in the development of performing arts companies resident at the Centre". The Orchestra plays an important educational role in the National Capital Region through its student matinee concerts, high school music series, musicians in the schools, pre-school music academy, open rehearsals and pre-concert talks, cushion concerts, Carleton University concert lecture series, University of Ottawa "World of Music" series, music instruction given to private pupils, to students at the University of Ottawa, Carleton University and the Hull Conservatory and coaching or conducting in the National Capital String Academy. Many of the Orchestra's musicians are members of seven other musical ensembles performing in the community. The Orchestra reaches outside the region by touring regularly and by its recordings. Of course, this long list of achievements is in addition to its regular concerts. As the only resident company, the Orchestra accomplishes a highly visible and respected role in the community.

During the 1989 contract renewal negotiations between the Centre and the musicians, it became known that options for the establishment of the Orchestra as an independent institution of the Centre were being considered, in keeping with the recommendation made by the Madsen Task Force. It also became known that a reduction in the number of officers and in the number of weeks of work were being considered. A strike by the members of the Orchestra lasted from October 1989 until the settlement of December 1989. At the time, the Board of Trustees issued a statement reaffirming the place and the role of the Orchestra in the programming of the Centre.

According to the testimony given by Mr. Hamilton Southam, the first Director General of the Centre, Mr. Alvin Gould, Deputy Minister of the Department of Communications, concerned for the welfare of the Orchestra, asked Mr. Southam in April 1989 "to explore the possibility of creating a private group to finance and manage the Orchestra."²⁰ The group formed by Mr. Southam for this purpose included the Hon. Mitchell Sharp and the Hon. Gordon Robertson. Their efforts stopped in June 1989 after finding out that the government could only fund part of the federal funding needed to sustain the Orchestra and