

The Centre is mandated "to develop the performing arts in the National Capital Region". In its simplest expression, the development of the performing arts takes place every time that a performance is given at the Centre. The development is also accomplished by the presence of its resident company, the National Arts Centre Orchestra. The Centre, however, gives a larger interpretation to this mandate and successfully assists and promotes local arts organizations and artists and provides frequent opportunities for the general public of all ages to enjoy and learn about the performing arts, often at no cost. At the request of the Sub-Committee, the Centre has provided statistical and narrative information on the use made of its facilities by local arts companies and associations. Since January 1987, 31 arts organizations and arts-related groups from the region have rented the Centre's Opera, Theatre or Studio and 58 separate arts organizations and associations from the region have rented other facilities at the Centre. The Centre has also provided the Sub-Committee a publication entitled *The NAC and the Community 1989: A Report to the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton*, a report prepared to support the NAC's annual appropriation from the regional municipality. It contains an impressive list of its wide-ranging contribution to the support of local arts organizations and artists and to the enrichment of the region's cultural life.

As noted by some organizations, the Sub-Committee did not hear from local artistic groups. Therefore, some issues of concern to this community may have not been fully addressed, such as the priority for access to the Centre's performing spaces and the rental prices paid by local arts groups for these spaces.

Nevertheless, the Centre was asked to outline its policy with respect to the use of its facilities by regional arts companies and associations. In his written response, Mr. Robert Landry stated that the Centre's policy "is the same one which guides all artistic programming at the NAC"⁽⁷⁾, namely that every request for a rental is evaluated at monthly meetings of the NAC Programming Committee against the framework of programming principles and guidelines established by the Board. The guidelines relevant in the evaluation of rental requests are: 1) professional over amateur; 2) resident over visiting; and 3) NAC presentations over rentals. The Programming Committee "thus seeks to balance proposed "Rental" programming with "NAC Presentations" in order that the diversity, quality and integrity of the Centre's entire programming is preserved."⁽⁸⁾

Concerning the amount charged to rent the Centre's performing spaces to local arts groups, one local group alleges that it is charged "top prices", the same price charged to any commercial organization. The Committee will not comment on this allegation because the cost of renting performing spaces has not been discussed fully. The Committee, however, wishes to bring to the Centre's attention the comments made by the Hendry Task Force on community service and its recommendation No. 52 that the Centre should establish a