



## CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

*(Adapted from the Canada Council for the Arts)*

Adjudicators are required to treat both the contents of applications that they review and the deliberations of the committee as confidential. They must not divulge information in applicant files outside the meeting. Who applied in the competition, who was recommended for a grant, and any comments made by individual Adjudicators are also confidential matters.

As a matter of policy, the Council publishes, in a timely fashion, lists of grant recipients in each program and never reveals the identity of unsuccessful applicants.

### **PEER ASSESSMENT** *(Adapted from the Canada Council for the Arts)*

"Peer assessment" at the Prince Edward Island Council of the Arts means the use of independent artists and other professionals working in the field to assess grant applications, advise on priorities, and make recommendations to the Council on the awarding of grants. Peer, in the Council's definition, are people who, by virtue of their experience, knowledge and open-mindedness, are capable of making a fair and informed assessment of the comparative merits of grant applications. Through peer assessment, the Council involves the arts community directly in its operations.

Of all the decisions the Council is empowered to make, its decisions about which artists, arts organizations and artistic projects will receive grants are the most sensitive, the most visible and the most likely to provoke criticism.

The Council welcomes spirited discussion and disagreement as a natural outcome of its intensely competitive work. At its best, the thrust and parry of democratic debate about arts grants confirms the power of the arts - their unique ability to generate strong passions and equally strong discord. The Council must therefore ensure that its grants to artists and arts organizations are dispensed with integrity, transparency and fairness and that its policies are clear and consistent.

In the Council's view, it is essential that:

- applicants for Council grants have confidence that they have been assessed by people with the knowledge and expertise to make sound qualitative judgments in their field of the arts - even if, in failing to get a grant, they are unhappy with the outcome;
- artists and other arts professionals who serve as members of peer assessment committees are able to attest to the credibility, honesty and fairness of the process;
- members of the public and Provincial Legislature know that the Council's assessment system serves the public interest because it is the most equitable means available for evaluating artistic merit and is governed by policies and procedures that are clearly and consistently applied - even if, as is inevitable, they don't personally like every artistic activity the Council supports.