

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Creative Women Workshops Association, the Banff Centre and the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists, on the 10th anniversary of The Women in the Director's Chair Workshop. In addition to supporting the film and television industries, this workshop advances women's capabilities, stirs their creativity and builds their confidence.

Women have made undeniable progress. Let us recognize all that they have overcome, and celebrate all that they have gained and achieved. But let us not turn a blind eye to situations that remain unacceptable. Across Canada, unequal pay, poverty and insecurity are the daily realities faced by thousands of women. That is why we need organizations like the Creative Women Workshops Association to act on their behalf. May Canada be a country where women can believe in the possible and have the chance to make it a reality.

I hope this year's workshop is a great success and that you all benefit from this excellent career development opportunity.

Michaëlle Jean

February 2007