



MUSÉE CANADIEN DES CIVILISATIONS  
CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION

100, RUE LAURIER STREET  
GATINEAU, QC K1A 0M8



CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM  
MUSÉE CANADIEN DE LA GUERRE

1, PLACE VIMY PLACE  
OTTAWA, ON K1A 0M8

February 8, 2011

Ms. Erin Williams  
Executive Director  
OCTEVAW

Dear Ms. Williams:

This is in response to your letter to The Honourable Chuck Strahl and The Honourable Lawrence Cannon concerning part of a performance by the world renowned circus group Les 7 Doigts de la Main at the Winterlude opening at the Canadian Museum of Civilization on Friday, February 4.

As you noted, much of the performance by Les 7 Doigts de la Main showcased the extraordinary athletic and theatrical abilities of its four women acrobats, and most of the performance was acceptable, but we regret that a portion of their performance was not appropriate for the occasion.

The Canadian Museum of Civilization strives in its programming to support the equality and inherent dignity of all people. We will convey your message to the artistic creators of the circus.

Please note that the Museum was solely responsible for booking the group and for establishing the parameters for the performance. The National Capital Commission had no role in that process.

You also expressed concern about the attitude and comments of a Museum employee who was informed about your complaint. We are looking into what occurred and will take the appropriate action.

Sincerely,

Jean-Marc Blais  
Vice-President  
Exhibitions and Programs

cc National Capital Commission  
Office of The Honourable C. Strahl  
Office of The Honourable L. Cannon