

June 11, 1981

MEMO TO ALL ASSOCIATIONS

POLITICAL ACTION - AGAIN!



Money from all sources is hard to come by. It may well get harder. Many associations and many craftsmen receive government funds, directly or indirectly. These funds are ultimately controlled by elected politicians. If we do not all start to do more constructive advocacy with our elected representatives then crafts and craftsmen will increasingly get the short end of the stick.

The CCC has two suggestions to put before members which we hope you will discuss at your next meeting with a view to implementing them. Both suggestions are designed to involve people in control of money in activities that only the crafts can undertake; to give them exposure to craftsmen actually enjoying doing and making; to present a positive and pleasurable image.

1. For those associations with craft shops, galleries and fairs

The VIP evening

Many already have previews of some kind or another - for trade buyers or just for good customers. We suggest that you set aside an evening at such a time and invite federal, provincial and municipal politicians, deputy ministers and corporate executives responsible for donations. Provide coffee, juice, wine even, but try to give every encouragement to a dialogue between the craftsmen (who will also be invited!) and the visitors. Don't leave ministers talking to the deputies; get them talking to craftsmen. The intention is an immersion dialogue.

2. For all associations

The studio visit

The intention here is not just a dialogue but also an opportunity to do something. Find (if you can) a craftsman willing to open up his or her studio - perhaps in conjunction with others - and invite a small group of politicians. The object of getting them to do things will be met by having a raku party with some previously prepared pots that a Minister can glaze and fire and take home. Or a few inkle looms. Anything that will help them to understand the pleasure of making things - but at the same time convey something of the real skills needed to do it properly.

We suggest that federal, provincial and municipal politicians be involved and we will be happy to provide names and addresses from the federal area or any other assistance you may need. But we do urge you to do things like this - or anything else you think will work.