

Karen Kain
Artistic Director

Media Release

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The National Ballet of Canada Postpones Western Canada Tour

On Stage
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts

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April 13... **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director, **Kevin Garland**, Executive Director and **Lucille Joseph**, Board Chair of The National Ballet of Canada, today announced the company will postpone its tour to Western Canada in September 2009.

"In order to avoid undue financial risk, we have decided to not proceed with the five city tour to Western Canada in September," said Executive Director **Kevin Garland**. "This is a decision we make with the deepest regret but one that is necessary in the current difficult economic environment."

The National Ballet hopes to reinstate the Western Canada tour in future years when a more predictable and stable economic situation returns.

"I am very grateful to the dancers, musicians, staff and the Board for understanding our situation and for all the support they have given Kevin and me with this difficult decision," said **Karen Kain**, Artistic Director. "My belief in the importance of touring this wonderful company has not changed and we will work diligently to return west."

Lucille Joseph, Chair of the Board, expressed the Board's agreement with the decision to not incur risk at this time: "The National Ballet of Canada recently enjoyed a very strong season at the Four Seasons Centre, is travelling to Ottawa this week to perform to sold-out houses and anticipates a robust June season. However, despite the continued support of our audiences and the generosity of our donors, the company faces a deficit situation for the first time in a number of years. The decision to not tour in the fall is fully supported by the Board of Directors. We must take the long view. We are committed to ensuring that the company's future remains bright and are confident that we will soon resume performing for an ever wider Canadian audience."

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