

The Honourable Stan Hagen, MLA
Ministry of Tourism Sport and the Arts
Room 028, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
stan.hagen.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Minister Hagen

I am writing on behalf of *NAME OF ORGANIZATION*, which operates in *MUNICIPALITY*, in *REGION* of BC and as a citizen who strongly believes in the importance of arts and culture to our province and supports government investment in the arts.

I want to register my strong support for the following recommendation made by the Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services in its November 16, 2006 *Report on the 2007 Budget Consultations*: **that the government, "increase funding to the BC Arts Council to enhance arts and culture in the province."**

I also support the key recommendation made by Arts Future BC in oral submissions before the Committee in eight BC centres and its written brief to the Committee. Arts Future BC is a coalition representing over 900 BC arts organizations and thousands of individual artists and arts supporters. **To ensure an adequate investment in sustainable communities throughout British Columbia, Arts Future BC is recommending all-party support for an increased investment of \$32 million in Arts and Culture through the British Columbia Arts Council, in the 2007–2009 budgets.**

In making its recommendation to Treasury Board, the Committee stated that it "... believes that the combined efforts of **the arts community in British Columbia present a compelling argument for a significant increase to the core funding provided to the B.C. Arts Council to support arts and culture in B.C.**"

A strong arts and culture sector benefits all of BC's communities and its citizens. The arts generate social and economic health in our province far beyond the current government investment. I urge you, as minister responsible for the arts, to support the Committee's recommendation by including an increase of \$32 million to British Columbia Arts Council in your 2007 to 2009 service plan and in your ministry's budget requests to Treasury Board for the same period.

The support of the Ministry for Tourism, Sport and the Arts to the recommended increase will be your ministry's arts and cultural legacy to the 2010 Olympic Games and beyond. A sustainable arts and culture sector will also make a significant contribution towards achieving the government's five strategic goals.

In the words of Premier Gordon Campbell, "Arts and Culture play a critical role in defining and enriching our communities, our unique BC identity, and the lives of us all wherever we live. The arts are also important contributor to our economy as well as to our society."

Yours truly,

copy: The Honourable Carol Taylor, Minister of Finance
Members of Treasury Board:

The Honourable Rick Thorpe, Vice Chair
The Honourable Pat Bell
The Honourable Bill Bennett
The Honourable Shirley Bond
The Honourable Ida Chong
The Honourable Rich Coleman
The Honourable Kevin Falcon
The Honourable Colin Hansen
The Honourable Linda Reid
John Yap, MLA
Iain Black, MLA