

2011 Federal Election

Common Electoral Platform Project

“Imagine a world without music, without poetry, without books, without paintings on the walls, without photographs, without legends, without the movement and the energy of dance, without theatre, without cinema, without the kind of imagination and creations which would force us to live only the realities of day to day life, the economy, the politics... Arts and culture are the fourth dimension we need to be humans: a country without arts and culture would be a country without a soul and a nation without identity.”

Raymond Legault, President of Union des artistes

Whereas:

- 1) According to the Conference Board of Canada, the overall economic footprint of the cultural sector reaches \$85 billion per year, which represents 7.4 % of the Canadian Gross Domestic Product;
- 2) Artists and cultural workers are an important and dynamic component of the Canadian creative economy;
- 3) The cultural sector provides direct employment to over 630,000 Canadians which is more than double the number of Canadians employed by either the forestry or banking sectors respectively;
- 4) According to the Department of Canadian Heritage, 94 % of Canadians agree that “live theatre companies, musicians, artists, festivals, and other cultural activities in a community make it a better place to live”;
- 5) Several studies show that arts and culture play an important part in developing our children and preparing them for a productive life;
- 6) Scientific research shows the beneficial impact of arts and culture not only on personal development but also on communities, noticeably in strengthening the sentiment of belonging, enhancing social solidarity and improving urban security;
- 7) Given the international successes that Canadian creators and producers have enjoyed in the cultural sector, disproportionately to the population of Canada and given that the Federal Government of Canada has played a significant role in the development of Canada’s cultural sector,

Consequently, the undersigned ask each of the federal parties to commit to implement the following measures concerning Canadian arts and culture:

1. Encourage the production of Canadian cultural content in the context of a national strategy through:
 - a. Increasing the budget of the Canada Council of the Arts to at least \$300M by 2015;

- b. Modernizing the *Copyright Act* to ensure fair compensation for creators and other rights holders and to facilitate access of cultural works by Canadians without undermining existing rights;
 - c. A commitment to increased and long-term funding for the Canada Media Fund, the Canada Music Fund, the CBC, the National Film Board and Telefilm;
 - d. Making providers of internet and wireless services contribute financially to the production of Canadian cultural programs;
 - e. Adopting tax measures addressing the realities of self-employed artists and creators;
 - f. Adopting tax incentives to encourage arts philanthropy and private investments in arts and cultural industries.
2. Dedicate \$40M to increase access to Canadian artists and works by Canadians and the international community.
 3. Reintroduce arts and culture as a component of Canadian foreign policy.
 4. Implement the National Museum Policy agreed to by all parties in 2005 with the injection of \$50M a year.