



NDP Responds

Note: We have yet to release our full platform but here are the answers to date outlining our commitments.

Arts and Culture platform

1. What is the NDP vision for arts and culture in Canada? What role do you see the arts and culture playing under your government?

NDP Response: The NDP has a clear vision for Canadian arts and culture including: protecting our heritage, supporting key Canadian institutions and providing an opportunity for our Canadian talent to thrive on digital and traditional platforms. The NDP also wants to ensure that artists are able to earn a decent living from their art. An NDP government will support the arts and culture sector. We understand that art is critical to our quality of life, our identity and our economy. Whether our artists are on the local, national, or international stage, Canadians are proud of the artists who make our communities and our country dynamic and a better place to live.

2. What specific things will your government do to maintain and improve the state of the arts and culture in Canada?

NDP Response: The NDP has yet to release its full platform, but we look forward to sharing with you the details of our plan. The NDP did make an early campaign commitment of restoring the reckless cuts made by the Conservatives to the CBC.

3. What is the NDP view on investments into the Canadian Council for the Arts?

NDP Response: The NDP intends to continue to support the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) which helps assist artists across the country. Since 1957, the CCA has promoted artistic creation and helped professionalize the sector, providing Canadians with access to a rich, high-level and diversified industry.

The NDP is aware that the current budget for the Canada Council for the Arts does not meet the financial demands required. Further details on the NDP's plans for Arts and Culture funding will be available when the full platform is released.

4. What steps will your party take to support the creation, distribution, and sale of Canadian content domestically and internationally?

NDP Response: In 2008, the NDP vigorously opposed the elimination of international markets development support programs. The elimination of the PromArt and Trade Routes programs created a significant gap. We believe that the current Canada Council for the Arts funding for international markets has not sufficiently filled this gap. Because the arts sector is such a significant job creator, the NDP believes the federal government has a role to play in supporting artists and cultural industries to find markets and to showcase Canadian content abroad.

5. What are the NDP's intentions for the future of our public broadcaster, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation?

NDP Response: The NDP believes that the CBC plays a unique and essential role and that its special mandate requires that it be treated differently than private broadcasters. The NDP wants the CBC to continue to keep up with technological shifts while remaining an independent, objective, transparent and innovative public broadcaster that represents Canadians.

An NDP government lead by Tom Mulcair will cancel the \$115 million in CBC/Radio-Canada cuts announced in the 2012 budget. We will guarantee stable, predictable, multi-year financing to protect CBC/ Radio-Canada from advertising market fluctuations and to help ensure its editorial independence from government. The NDP will implement an independent process for appointing members of the CBC's Board of Directors.

The NDP fought the Conservatives' relentless attacks on our public broadcaster in the House of Commons. We repeatedly raised issues affecting the CBC in Question Period and in Parliamentary Committees. We also dedicated one of our Opposition Days to debate public funding for the CBC.

6. What are your party's intentions towards Aboriginal artists and arts in Canada? What will your party do to improve the position of Aboriginal artists and art?

NDP Response: The NDP shares the view of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that arts and culture could play a key role in reconciliation. The NDP welcomes the recent interest from the Canada Council for the Arts to greater support Aboriginal artists and art. An NDP government will make sure that the current arts and culture support programs offer appropriate support to Aboriginal artists and art.

7. Are there any other parts of the NDP platform relating to arts and culture that you would like to share?

NDP Response: Please note the NDP has yet to release our platform. Full details about our plan for Arts and Culture will be available when the platform is released.