



Alliance for Arts and Culture - Green Party of Canada

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

Arts and culture are essential to Canadian identity. Even more than that, Canada's arts and culture sector is an important economic driver that requires serious attention from the Department of Industry and Heritage Canada. Our vibrant arts and culture industry has the potential to diversify and expand, generating billions of dollars of lucrative commercial activities and countless jobs.

A nation relies on its artists to tell its own story and shape its identity. Canadians are enthusiastic readers, listeners, and viewers, but we recognize that culture also needs public support to thrive. Arts organizations, especially the Canada Council for the Arts and the CBC, require steady, predictable federal funding. Public broadcasting is a vital tool for an informed and effective citizenry, as well as an important counterweight to media concentration. Many Canadian artists, writers, and performers have international followings, but assistance is still needed to give local talent a fair opportunity to compete in the global marketplace. Ensuring that our cultural sector remains strong is essential to our quality of life, and delivers economic benefits as an encore. Green MPs will stand up for the arts.

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

Among other measures, Green MPs will advocate for stable, sustained, and increased funding for the arts as well as greater independence for Canada's arts and culture organizations.

The Green Party will increase funding for the Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm Canada, and our orchestras, theatres, and publishers, to bring public support for arts and culture in line with other industries. To protect the independence of Canada's arts and culture institutions from political influence, we will establish arm's-length committees made up of various diverse stakeholders representative of Canadian society to appoint the heads of Canada's cultural organizations such as the CRTC, the Canada Council for the Arts, the CBC, and Telefilm Canada.

To support individual artists and workers, we will seek increased funding incentives for artists and art events to tour Canada's rural regions and for arts and culture programs in schools. We will also protect Canada's cultural identity during trade negotiations and change the Canada

Revenue Act to allow arts and culture workers to benefit from a tax averaging plan that will take into account variable annual incomes in the sector.

The Green Party's Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI), will also give artists the freedom to pursue their craft without living in fear of falling into poverty. A GLI would provide a regular payment to every Canadian, at a level above the poverty line, to meet Canadians' basic needs while encouraging additional income generation. For higher-income Canadians, the amount of the GLI is merely taxed back in whole. A GLI will give artists the support they need to do their work, without having to sacrifice their material well-being.

3. What is the Green Party's view on investments into the Canadian Council for the Arts?

The Green Party of Canada recognizes the vital role that the Canada Council for the Arts plays in developing, sustaining, and promoting Canadian culture in all its diversity. An arm's-length Council with stable, adequate funding is key to providing Canadians with affordable access to their cultural heritage. The Green Party supports the call of many arts organizations to gradually increase the Canada Council for the Arts' Parliamentary appropriation with the long-term goal of reaching \$300 million. This is a worthwhile investment in Canadian arts.

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

Canadian artists, actors, musicians, dancers, authors, and playwrights rank among the best in the world. The federal government can and should do more to help these artists gain much-needed access to the international market. We must reverse the Harper Conservatives' funding cuts to the promotion of Canadian art abroad, including the inexpensive, yet effective, embassy art program. Canada must support programs that promote Canadian art abroad and ensure that Canadian artists have the means to live stably in Canada. An adequately funded Canada Council for the Arts is key to both these goals. The Green Party also supports the Canadian Arts Coalition's proposal to institute a \$25 million pilot program over three years at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development for Canada's 150th birthday. This bold initiative would go a long way to promote Canadian art and artists abroad.

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

The Green Party strongly supports a robust and adequately-funded national public broadcaster. Green Party MPs have consistently spoken out against repeated cuts to the CBC, which have limited the broadcaster's ability to fulfill its mandate to provide quality Canadian content to all Canadians. To begin with, the Green Party will fight to reverse the latest cuts of some \$115 million to the CBC budget, and will increase the CBC budget by \$200 million to start rebuilding local coverage. We will provide predictable, reliable, long-term base funding for the CBC so it

can continue to provide quality Canadian content television and radio programming in both official languages to all Canadians. Canada must also engage in a national dialogue to support the long-term financial independence of 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?

The Green Party will support Aboriginal artists and arts. In addition to the increased funding, tax relief, and incentives we will offer to all Canadian artists, we will take care to protect indigenous intellectual and artistic property rights, so as to safeguard Aboriginal artists' unique contribution to Canadian culture. The Green Party will implement all the "Calls to Action" of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that are within federal jurisdiction, including providing sufficient funding for the call for "the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process."

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

The federal government has a number of roles to play to ensure that Canadian artists thrive in both traditional and digital media and that Canadians have access to their work. The government needs to work both to modernize existing structures, such as copyright and Canadian content quotas, and to look at new ways to help Canadian artists succeed. The Green Party believes that this can best be done by taking a holistic look at our programs, funding, legislation, and regulation to explore how we can best maintain and grow a strong environment for art in Canada. The Green Party supports the Canadian Arts Coalition's call for a House of Commons committee to conduct this review, with an aim to establishing a comprehensive Canadian Cultural Digital Strategy.