

**BRIEF TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:**

**Submitted August 4, 2017, to:**  
**Clerk, Standing Committee on Finance**  
**6-131 Queen Street**  
**House of Commons**  
**Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6**  
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**ARTSBUILD ONTARIO**

ArtsBuild Ontario is the only organization dedicated to realizing long-term solutions for building, managing and financing the sustainable creative spaces needed in Ontario communities. ArtsBuild provides tools, training and resources that support the development of sustainable creative spaces such as theatres, galleries, concert halls, and museums.

**What federal measures would help Canadian businesses to be more productive and competitive?****1. Confirmation of funding extensions**

On behalf of the creative spaces we represent across the province of Ontario, ArtsBuild Ontario seeks to confirm that increases to both the *Canada Cultural Spaces Fund* (\$300 million over the next ten years) and the *Enabling Accessibility Fund* (\$77 million over the next ten years) stated in Budget 2017 remain in place, as indicated, for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Both of these funds will have a significant impact on the ability of creative spaces to develop more inclusive facilities for the communities of Ontario – to be enjoyed by all Canadians.

The extension of this investment is critical to ensuring that our spaces not only maintain a state of good repair but that the dedicated organizations that operate these spaces can produce high quality programming and content for all Canadians.

**2. Bilateral coordination**

In addition to ensuring that the funds are secure as stated in Budget 2017, we also believe that securing the bilateral agreement with the Province of Ontario, would allow eligible organizations access to more necessary funds.

Budget 2017 indicated that starting in 2018-19, \$1.3 billion will be provided to provinces and territories through integrated bilateral agreements, and delivered through the second phase of social infrastructure funding. To our knowledge there is no such bilateral agreement in place with the Province of Ontario. It is important that all eligible organizations have access to social infrastructure funding.

While the *Canada Cultural Spaces Fund* received a recent boost in funds, it is difficult for many organizations to leverage the Fund in the absence of a significant provincial capital fund which can also be leveraged. We believe that there is a role for Infrastructure Canada to lead conversations with provincial and territorial ministries at both a funding and policy level, to ensure that organizations (small to large) can leverage resources made available at all levels of government.

This will ensure that all eligible organizations have access to all funds available and will result in safe productive spaces that can produce and create engaging content for all Canadians.

ArtsBuild Ontario would be pleased to appear before the Standing Committee on Finance during the pre-budget hearings in Ottawa, to discuss further data and information we have on the state of our creative spaces and their needs. An invitation to appear can be emailed to Lindsay Golds, Executive Director, at [lindsay@artsbuildontario.ca](mailto:lindsay@artsbuildontario.ca)