



Canadian Dance Assembly
L'Assemblée canadienne de la danse

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultation in Advance of the 2020 Budget

By Kate Cornell, Executive Director/Directrice générale

on behalf of the Canadian Dance Assembly

1. Follow through on the investment of \$35M to the **Canada Council for the Arts** in Budget 2020 to provide stability in the arts sector.
2. Make the increases to the **Canada Cultural Spaces Fund** permanent (\$54M annually) to allow for the arts sector to focus on its carbon footprint by refurbishing infrastructure and making existing spaces efficient.
3. Continue to support research (\$1M) with the **Gender Based Analysis Plus** lens at the Department of Canadian Heritage.
4. Truly support **Indigenous artists** with \$25M of annual funding for four years through all the programs at the Department of Canadian Heritage because they are the stewards of the land and the leaders in the transition to a low carbon economy.



The Canadian Dance Assembly is the national arts service organization for the dance sector. We represent a membership of 600 dance organizations and individuals; alongside of our provincial partners, CDA has a global reach to a dance community of approximately 3000 arts workers. The Canadian Dance Assembly is happy to participate in the pre-budget process offered by the Standing Committee on Finance.

1. The **Canada Council for the Arts** is the major federal funder of the sector. Since Budget 2016, the operating budget of the Canada Council has been slowly doubled over a five-year period. The Canadian Dance Assembly wants to acknowledge that this historic investment in Canadian artists and arts organizations has provided stability and the first steps towards equity within the sector. The Canadian Dance Assembly encourages the Government of Canada to follow through on the planned increment of \$35M to the Council's budget in 2020-21. This investment offers security within the arts sector to allow for the transition to the low carbon economy. For example, the large dance companies rely heavily on touring to reach audiences. Investment in new ways of working in the performing arts, less reliant on travel, are needed. The small to mid-sized creative sector are innovating and ready for change, but we need time to make the transition throughout the dance sector.
2. The Canadian Dance Assembly is grateful for the Government of Canada's investment in cultural spaces in Budget 2017, but that funding is time-sensitive which is problematic for infrastructure projects which are often decades in the making.

Investing permanently¹ in the **Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF)** would update cultural infrastructure and maximize output. Much of Canada's cultural infrastructure was built during the Centennial of Confederation boom – those spaces need to be retrofitted and made to comply with accessibility legislation. Additionally, Faith and the Common Good: Regeneration Works² is working to convert faith-based spaces into

¹ From 2027 onwards

² https://www.faithcommongood.org/places_of_faith

multi-use cultural hubs. This noteworthy re-use project on a national scale needs a regular source of funding.

CCSF at the Department of Canadian Heritage already provides access to funding for renovated cultural spaces, but it needs permanent funding. Cultural Spaces are the key to the arts sector's carbon footprint, therefore strategic funding in CCSF will help the sector to transition to a low carbon economy. Further, Canadian productions can move from stage to screen to sofa by equipping key performance spaces across Canada with digital capture technology. Updating cultural infrastructure, and where feasible building new cultural hubs, would certainly reduce the carbon footprint of the cultural industries.

3. The Canadian Dance Assembly is grateful for the Government of Canada's Budget 2019 investment in research into barriers to female leadership in the sector. This DCH research needs to continue in 2020.

In May 2018, CDA's Executive Director was a witness at the Gender Parity Study by the Standing Committee for Canadian Heritage. There remain numerous barriers to female leadership, especially IPOC, in the arts. A comprehensive approach to a literature review and research is needed at the federal level to respond to Dr. Amanda Coles research³ commissioned by the Ontario Arts Council. The Department of Canadian Heritage has begun gathering that data and needs the time and funding to continue identifying trends in diverse female leadership. The arts sector needs a comprehensive picture of the role of women in the arts, where unconscious bias exists, and where to make change.

³ <http://www.arts.on.ca/news-resources/news/2018/new-report-provides-insight-into-the-status-of-women-in-the-arts-in-canada>



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4. The Canadian Dance Assembly joins its colleagues at the Canadian Arts Coalition in its call for an initial investment of \$25M per year for the next 4 years at the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) for Indigenous artists. Indigenous languages, training, spaces, and presentation need more investment. Through DCH and through crown corporations, the Government of Canada can ensure Indigenous peoples are better served. This 4-year \$100M investment could be a first step in line with the investment in Creating, Knowing, and Sharing Program at the Canada Council for the Arts. This investment could be used to fund activities on and off reserve, to create specific and dedicated program components for Indigenous cultures (ie. within Canada Arts Training Fund and Canada Arts Presentation Fund), or to bump up appropriations for Crown Corporations with new dedicated program streams, such as the National Arts Centre's Indigenous Theatre initiative. Indigenous artists are stewards of the land and their voices need to be amplified in the transition to a low carbon world.

The Canadian Dance Assembly is an active member in the Canadian Arts Coalition. This brief is submitted in partnership with its colleagues within the performing arts sector.

