

**Pre-Budget Consultations
2020 Budget**

Submission from the Canadian Arts Coalition

August 2019

Recommendations

1. Invest \$100M over four years in Indigenous artistic and cultural vitality at the Department of Canadian Heritage
2. Invest in the all the Arts Branch programs at the Department of Canadian Heritage with permanent funding and strategic additions including: \$30.5M (permanent with \$8.5M increase) for the Canada Cultural Investment Fund, \$40M (permanent) for the Canada Arts Presentation Fund, and \$24.6M (permanent) for the Building Communities through Arts and Heritage fund, \$34M (permanent with \$10M increase) for the Canada Arts Training Fund, and \$54M (permanent) for Canada Cultural Spaces funding.
3. Continue the important investment of \$35M in the Canada Council for the Arts in Budget 2020
4. Modernize the Copyright Act

The Canadian Arts Coalition is a collaborative non-partisan movement spearheaded by a group of national arts service and membership organizations. We are united in the belief that the future of our citizens, their towns and cities, and the nation itself depends on a rich, vibrant and diverse arts and heritage community. The Canadian Arts Coalition has presented several times at the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage and at the Senate. The Canadian Arts Coalition is happy to participate in the pre-budget process for 2020.

Recommendation 1: Invest in Indigenous artistic and cultural vitality

The Government of Canada can make artistic and cultural reparations with Indigenous peoples a top priority by providing initial bridge-building investments while reviewing its cultural policies / programs / crown corporations and portfolio agencies attached to the Department of Canadian Heritage.

We know there are reparations to be made if Canada is willing to redress and correct for the cultural genocide of Indigenous peoples that sought to erase and delegitimize the cultural contexts of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The opportunity can be studied internally in partnership with Indigenous communities and arts/culture stakeholders, resulting in clear guidelines and recommendations to follow in due course, all while initial investments are made. It is imperative we make good on the promise of Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Important steps with regard to language are being made. Many more are within reach.

An initial investment of \$25M per year for the next 4 years could be stewarded through the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) to adapt programs within the department, and through portfolio agencies, to ensure Indigenous peoples are better served, and to disseminate Indigenous values and stories with settler and immigrant populations. The knowledge transfer and exchange between cultures can promote understanding and begin to heal deep wounds among our peoples, across generations, and for generations to come. This 4-year \$100M investment could be seen as a down payment, pending the results of findings around how to redress cultural genocide. It could be used to fund activities on and off reserve, to create specific and dedicated program components for Indigenous cultures (ex. within the Canada Arts Training Fund, Canada Cultural Spaces 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. There is much we can do.

For the long term, we are talking about more than a seat at the table. Indigenous cultures need to be at the forefront. Turtle Island has been home to human activity for some 15,000 years. Just as "western" technological capabilities and social complexities led to an industrial revolution, Indigenous ways of life and philosophies can lead us to an ecological revolution.

By making just amends, Canada will grow into a better and even more unified country.

Recommendation 2: Index Arts Branch programs

The Arts Branch at the Department of Canadian Heritage delivers key strategic support to the sector through policy and programs that benefit Canadians in communities small and large. Many of these programs are up for renewal, or at least recalibrations, given some have been flat-lined since first introduced in 2001. The Canadian Arts Coalition is recommending that recent investments in these vital programs become permanent and that two strategic program receive modest increases.

We are requesting an increase of \$8.5 million annually for the **Canada Cultural Investment Fund (CCIF)**, including the Endowment Incentives component (\$6.5M per year) and Strategic Initiatives Components (\$2M per year).

- The Endowment Incentives component of the CCIF incentivizes donors to contribute to endowment funds thanks to a match from the federal government allowing not-for-profit arts organizations to work toward long-term sustainability and access income from investments now and in the future. Endowments stabilize arts organizations and promote long-term planning. Accordingly, they capably attract and retain staff, create and expand the scope of programs, and reach increasingly diverse and sophisticated audiences.
- The Strategic Initiatives component of the Canada Cultural Investment Fund provides financial project assistance involving multiple partners. Arts organizations improve their business practices, diversify their revenues and share resources, allowing them to make stronger contributions to Canadian society and the economy.¹ Culture Days is one of the initiatives funded in this program.

Optimizing and increasing base funding levels for **Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage (BCTAH)** and the **Canada Arts Presentation Fund (CAPF)** will ensure the continued economic vitality of hundreds of rural and urban communities, allowing more Canadians to experience artistic programming that reflect Canada's diverse population. Doing so would promote efficient coordination between domestic and international dissemination, while renewing creative export strategies that encourage creative industries to thrive abroad.

Nationally and internationally acclaimed Canadian artists make us proud by representing our country on the world stage. They perfect their art training at institutions supported by the **Canadian Arts Training Fund (CATF)**. Enhanced CATF base funding by \$10 million per year would strengthen arts training and diversify aesthetic practices for the next generation of artists as they reflect the multicultural fabric of our nation and represent Canada to the world.

Growing the **Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF)** would update cultural infrastructure and maximize output. While front of house areas in theatres are retrofitted accordingly, meeting accessibility standards for stages and backstage areas would improve workplace safety, and support a safer work culture, for all. Further, Canadian content can move from stage to screen

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/cultural-investment-fund/strategic->

to sofa by equipping key performance spaces across Canada with digital capture technology. Dedicated streams within a better resourced Cultural Spaces Fund can support these goals.

The suite of programs delivered by the Arts Branch at the Department of Canadian Heritage provides strategic support throughout the creative value chain and complement the Government's investments in the Canada Council. Their recalibration is of major importance over the next government mandate.

Recommendation 3: Continue important investments in the Canada Council for the Arts

We encourage the Government of Canada to follow through on the planned increment of \$35M to the Council's budget in 2020-21 to address important demographic changes and affect change at the start of the creative value chain.

As the population diversifies, artists and audiences need to respond to the changing cultural landscape. The third action point of the Canada Council's Strategic Plan is to focus on areas such as cultural diversity, including connections with Indigenous artists. The Canada Council plays a critical part, unleashing potential throughout the creative value chain thanks to its investments in creation and production that underpin the creative economy.

Recommendation 4: Modernize the Copyright Act

The Canadian Arts Coalition supports the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage's report *Shifting Paradigms*² (May 2019), and its recommendations pertaining to copyright reform and copyright literacy development. In particular, recommendation #18 (fair dealing, educational institutions) and #22 (Artist's Resale Right) are essential to the ability of literary and visual artists to be recognized and compensated for their contributions to Canadian culture.

Thank you for your consideration.

² <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/CHPC/Reports/RP10481650/chpcrp19/chpcrp19-e.pdf>