

Arts Training in Canada

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget 2021 Consultations

Organizations:



Recommendation

Invest an additional \$10-million to the annual budget of the Canadian Arts Training Fund (CATF). This would increase the fund from \$22.6-million to \$32.6-million in contributions, to enable new and existing recipients to optimize their operations and school programming and mitigate COVID-19 impacts on the schools and their students.

In recognition of the COVID-19 economic relief measures that the Government of Canada has invested in to-date, we propose a scaled-in approach over 3 years for the increased CATF investment:

- 2021-22: \$4 million
- 2022-23: \$3 million
- 2023-24: \$3 million

Introduction

On behalf of the collective work of Canada's arts training organizations, we are grateful for the Government's economic support to Canadian arts sector throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. CEWS, CERB, and the Emergency Support Fund for Culture, Heritage and Sport organizations have been critical in keeping our organizations and people working.

Arts training students, both those residing in Canada and internationally, have been deeply affected by the pandemic. There are shared concerns about travelling back to school, living in residence, paying for tuition and living expenses, and engaging in hands-on training that cannot be delivered online. Arts training organizations have responded by moving some of their curriculum online and have developed protocols for a safe return of students, staff and faculty.

While arts training organizations continue to employ cultural workers, arts training organizations and their students are concerned about the future of work. The arts have been adversely affected as a sector in the Canadian economy that was among the first to close and among the last to reopen. Everyone hopes for a strong recovery plan from Canadian Heritage and the Government of Canada to support every facet of the arts economy and value chain. Canadian arts training organizations will aid in this recovery, offering training programs and innovative testing grounds to help the sector rebound from the crisis.

The Canada Arts Training Fund (CATF) at the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH) is one of the only sources of federal public funding that our organizations can access to deliver nationally significant arts training of the highest quality, ensure financial and administrative stability, and train artists who are recognized for their excellence in Canada and abroad. This funding becomes even more important in order to sustain arts career pathways in restarting the arts economy, during and post-COVID-19.

The program currently supports 36 training schools and distributes \$22.5 million in grants. With the fund flatlined for the past decade, an additional investment of \$10-million annually (bringing the fund to \$32.6-million) would relieve existing, pre-pandemic pressure on the program and allow new training organizations from diverse communities and artistic practices to be added. An increase would set up arts training organizations to recover from COVID-19, including a re-stabilization of operations, adaptations in training, employment of cultural workers, and support for students through financial need, accessibility and mental health.

Current Situation

The arts and culture sector was immediately impacted by government measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 – restricting international travel, cancelling mass gatherings, shutting down schools and moving to a work-from-home environment, among others.

Arts training schools have cited CEWS and the Emergency Support Fund to Culture, Heritage and Sport organizations as the primary economic supports that have kept these schools operating, communicating with students, staff, faculty and the community, and keeping administrative employees working so that the schools can adapt and re-open safely.

Adequate funding beyond COVID-19 relief funding is necessary for these organizations to bounce back from the crisis and thrive. CATF can provide this. CATF has historically supported a broad range of activities such as:

- offering new programs
- keep pace with changes in artistic practice
- maintain accessible tuition fees
- attract and employ high-calibre teachers,
- make audition and enrollment more accessible
- increase diversity within the training cohorts
- innovate with technology in creation, production and dissemination
- support life-long learning at all career stages
- keep up with international peers in scale and innovation
- engage in long-term planning
- offer opportunities for artists to extend their practice to community building and audience development
- reflect Canada's diverse contemporary world in arts practice today, especially to engage in the calls to action of Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous people, and support anti-racism and inclusion with IBPOC, marginalized and newcomer artists

Schools want to maintain these important activities, while also mitigating existing and future damage from COVID-19.

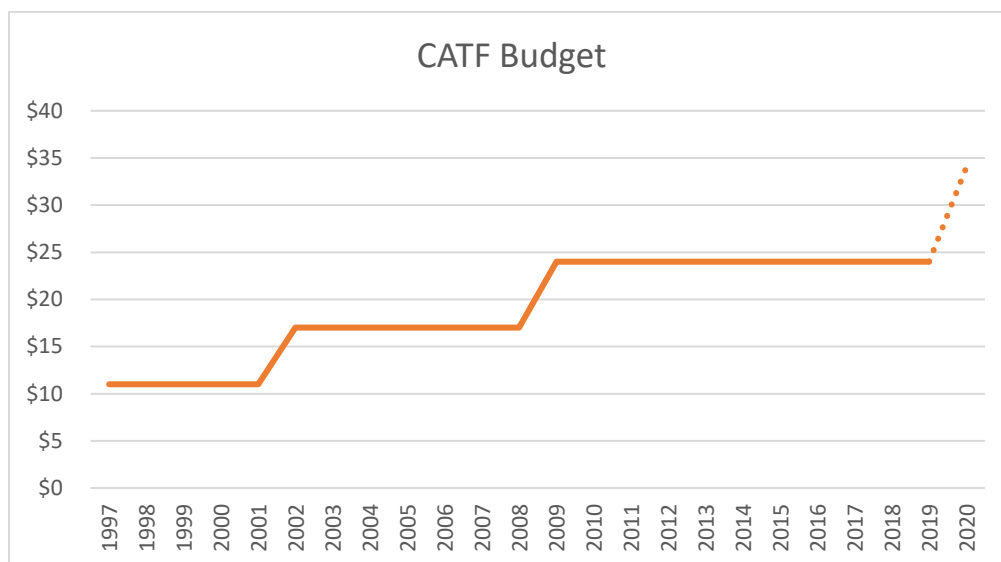
It is also important to note that outside of COVID-19 emergency funding and CATF, arts training organizations have also expressed a funding need for physical and digital infrastructure, to ensure physical spaces for training are equipped to meet public health standards and protocols, and to stay connected to our many students, stakeholders and communities.

About the Canada Arts Training Fund (CATF)

CATF's 2019 departmental evaluation confirmed that the fund has been efficient and effective since it was established. It aligns with government priorities and benefits Canadians and the economy through skills development and professional contribution to the cultural value chain. For many of our organizations, CATF is one of the only sources of public funding that our organizations can access to deliver arts training.

CATF currently distributes \$22.6-million annually in grants and supports 36 training schools.

In 2009, CATF was increased by \$7.1-million through Canada's Economic Action Plan to its current level. A decade later, without additional investment, training institutions face added pressure and costs, which has been exacerbated due to COVID-19.



**dollars in millions*

**budget graph listed at \$24-million includes PCH's program administration costs. Contributions to arts training organizations average at \$22.6-million*

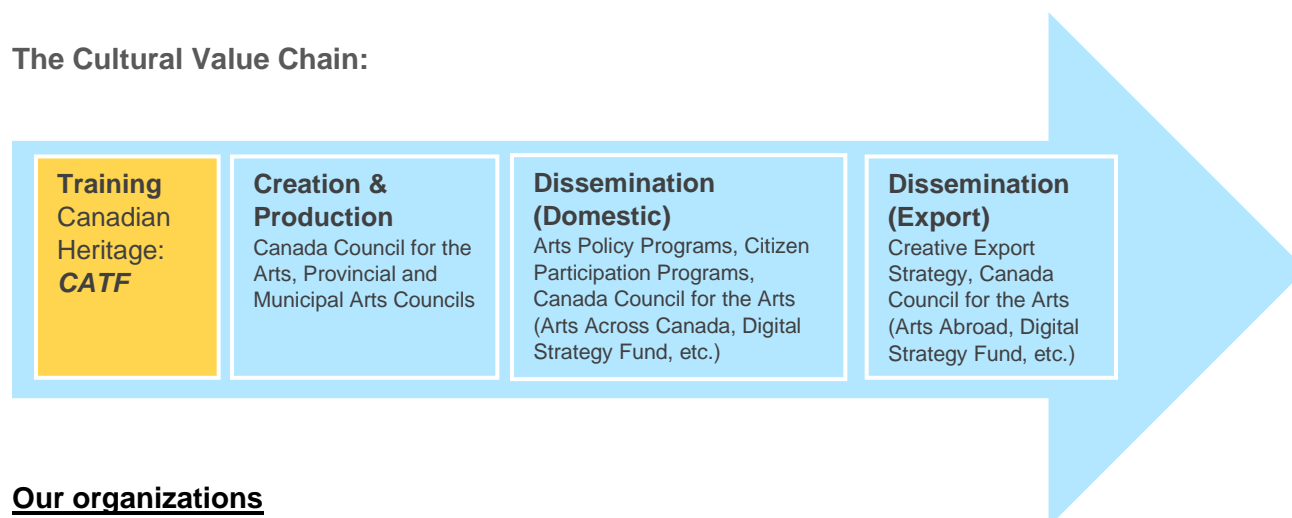
PCH's evaluation of CATF confirmed:

“...due to high program demand and fixed budgets, CATF did not fund all qualified organizations, did not increase funding to all high-performing schools, and decreased funding to lower-performing organizations as well as to two national high-performing organizations.”

An additional, permanent \$10-million annual increase would help relieve both the pre-existing pressure on the program, as well as to support the arts training organizations on the re-opening and recovery stages post-COVID. Moreover, additional funds will help these vital training organizations deliver the immediate, intermediate and ultimate results outlined by PCH.

CATF-supported institutions recruit, train, and develop artists who forge our collective Canadian identity. The Olympic *Own the Podium* program shows that public investment in training can lead Canada's athletes to success internationally. A similar investment in CATF would allow the same opportunity for Canada's artists and maintain pathways for a cultural workforce through COVID-19.

The Cultural Value Chain:



Our organizations

[Alberta Ballet School](#)

[Arts Umbrella](#)

[Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal](#)

[Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity](#)

[Black Theatre Workshop](#)

[Canada's Music Incubator](#)

[Canada's National Ballet School](#)

[Canadian Opera Company](#)

[Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School](#)

[Centre for Indigenous Theatre](#)

[Dancer Transition Resource Centre](#)

[Debajehmujig](#)

[École de danse contemporaine de Montréal](#)

[L'École nationale de l'humour](#)

[École supérieure de ballet du Québec](#)

[En'owkin Centre](#)

[Les Muses: Centre des arts de la scène](#)

[Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance \(LAMP\)](#)

[Medalta International Artists in Residence program](#)

[National Academy Orchestra of Canada](#)

[École nationale de cirque \(National Circus School\)](#)

[National Theatre School of Canada](#)

[National Youth Orchestra of Canada](#)

[Nyata Nyata](#)

[Qaggiavuut!](#)

[The School of Contemporary Dancers](#)

[The School of Toronto Dance Theatre](#)

[Stratford Festival](#)

[Soulpepper](#)

[Royal Conservatory of Music - Glenn Gould School](#)