



January 12, 2006

**RE: Canadian Conference on the Arts Questionnaire**

Attached please find the response of the New Democratic Party to your 2006 Election Survey. It is the policy of our party to respond to surveys on behalf of all New Democratic candidates.

For more information, we encourage you to consult our full 2006 election platform at: <http://www.ndp.ca/page/2963>

Thank you for your interest in the views of the New Democratic Party on the critical issues facing Canadians.

We appreciate your efforts to help voters make an informed decision on voting day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jack Layton  
Leader of Canada's NDP

## **NDP Response - Canadian Conference on the Arts Questionnaire**

### **1) Investing in Canada's Arts and Culture at Home and Around the World: Honouring our Commitment to Diversity**

**a) Will your party ensure that new federal funding for the arts and culture announced on November 23, which included an increase to the budget of the Canada Council for the Arts and other key investments, will be reflected in the 2006 Federal Budget?**

New Democrats will provide increased funding for the Canada Council for the support of artists and ensure that the government follows through on November's Canada Council funding announcement. We need to make certain that the Council's funding for art and artists remains stable and accessible.

The NDP believes that our arts, culture and media are vital to preserving our cultural sovereignty and independence as a nation. We will continue to fight for the development of arts and culture policies that nurture this sector as a vital economic engine for Canada, our cities and communities.

**b) Does your party support a review of Canada's new international policy statement to restore arts and culture as a key aspect of public diplomacy? Would your party support increased financing for the Department of Foreign Affairs' cultural programs?**

New Democrats support a review of Canada's new international policy statement to restore arts and culture as a key aspect of public diplomacy and a review of financing for the Department of Foreign Affairs' cultural programs.

**c) Does your party intend to extend the Department of Canadian Heritage's "Tomorrow Starts Today" funding package beyond the current timetable? Would your party increase financial commitments to its component programs?**

The NDP will increase funding to the arts and ensure that all funding for the Department of Canadian Heritage's "Tomorrow Starts Today" is fair and that its current timetable is enough to achieve its goals.

### **Equitable Treatment for Canadian Artists and Creators**

**a) Does your party support the objectives of CCA's "Fair Tax Treatment of Professional Artists Campaign", which are:**

- **To establish a policy that all professional artists will be deemed to be carrying on a business for purposes of their artistic income (independent contractor status) unless**
  - **in the case where there is no collective bargaining relationship, an engager and the artist enter into a contract of service (employeremployee relationship) that is explicit and unambiguous, or**

- **an engager and an association representing a group of artists negotiate a provision that artists governed by a collective agreement are in a contract of service relationship.**
- **To have a community-agreed test of “professionalism” replace the “reasonable expectation of profit” test now used by the Canada Revenue Agency.**

New Democrats understand the reasons behind the arts sector’s call for fairer tax treatment policy for artists in Canada. Canada has an amazing array of artists and their contribution to our identity is just as essential as our roads and other infrastructure. As such, our artists deserve better support, funding and tax treatment and we’ll work to make that happen.

**b) Does your party support the development of a program by which selfemployed workers, dependent contractors, and Canadians in other non-standard work could access full social benefits without the loss of their self-employment status?**

New Democrats will strengthen the status of Canada’s artists by:

- Introducing a system of tax averaging to provide fair and equitable tax treatment for Canadian artists.
- Building on a model in Quebec, introduce an exemption for the first \$30,000 on copyright and certain royalty income.
- Protecting children in the arts.

**c) Does your party intend to introduce further revisions to the Copyright Act? Will your party commit to enacting legislation that enhances the moral and economic rights of creators and copyright owners?**

New Democrats have traditionally expressed support for measures that protect the rights of creators, and ensure that their work is valued and compensated, whether it appears on the radio, in print media, on the internet or elsewhere.

New Democrats have also expressed that any copyright legislation needs to balance the rights of creators, users and distributors. Creators must be fairly compensated for their work, and only a creator can waive that right. At the same time, users need fair access, in order to encourage a vital Canadian culture. We would support legislative measures that involve a careful balancing of all of these factors.

**3) Canada’s Broadcasting and Communications Systems in the 21st Century**

**a) Does your party support CBC’s request for new monies for regional and local services and for Canadian television drama? Would your party provide longterm, stable funding for the CBC?**

The NDP is committed to increasing and stabilizing funding for the CBC and Radio-Canada, recognizing the importance of public broadcasting in a large country in a larger world. The NDP recognizes and supports the CBC’s capacity to connect Canadians to each other through news, regional programming, drama and comedy. We believe that the CBC plays a crucial role to building our identity as a nation, and that a strong public

broadcaster is essential in connecting a large and diverse country, and maintaining our distinct identity.

The NDP has fought hard for increased and stabilized funding for the CBC to off-set the years of Liberal cuts to CBC's budget and lack of commitment from Paul Martin's government to protect and promote public broadcasting.

**b) Will your party ensure that the cultural objectives of the *Broadcasting Act* are respected in the face of challenges posed by new communications technologies, such as: Internet, satellite radio, pod-casting, and television-enabled cellular phones?**

Canadian content requirements for all broadcasters were originally introduced as an effort to develop Canadian TV production capacity, and to address the overwhelming dominance of U.S. programming during prime time. The changes in 1999, that redefined the content requirements for prime time, created an influx of U.S. content, and caused a serious decline in Canadian English language television drama production. The NDP thinks a review of these changes is long overdue. The CRTC should be directed to review the 1999 television policy for the exhibition of priority programming in prime time and set firm content and spending requirements for broadcasters.

**c) What are your party's plans to ensure a more transparent and guaranteed revenue flow from all media, but particularly from digital media, to the owners and licensees of copyright materials?**

New Democrats realize that there needs to be a more transparent and guaranteed revenue flow from all media, especially digital media, to the owners and licensees of copyright materials and we'll build on the model in Quebec to introduce an exemption for the first \$30,000 on copyright and certain royalty income.

#### **4) Sustaining Distinctive Canadian Cultural Industries**

**a) Will your party commit to maintain the current level of 53 % Canadian ownership rules in our media, broadcasting, and telecommunications systems, and ensure that Canadians will always own our own airwaves?**

The NDP wants to maintain current restrictions to foreign ownership in this sector. We want a Canada written about by Canadians, portrayed in productions by Canadians, encouraging Canadian artists, presenting Canadian news – made possible by a vast array of Canadian workers and technicians.

**b) What is your party's position on the concentration of ownership in Canada's cultural industries? What quantifiable limits to the concentration of ownership and vertical integration within the various cultural industries will your party propose?**

It is essential that we keep Canadian control of one of our most important cultural industries and through it foster the development of Canadian identities that are distinctly recognizable to ourselves and to others. We will oppose any attempt by other parties to ease foreign ownership restrictions.

**c) Given that Canada recently ratified the UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, will your party develop policies to encourage more domestic investment in our cultural industries? What would those be?**

The NDP will strengthen Canada's homegrown film and television production by:

- Directing the CRTC to require clear, binding, monitored and enforced performance standards for broadcasters, including a significant and permanent increase in the production and broadcast of Canadian drama.
- Reviewing and restructuring the CRTC to avoid the mixed mandates and conflicts of interest that undermine the role of the commission in promoting and protecting Canadian cultural industries.
- Ensuring that Canadian television networks remain Canadian owned.
- Providing sustained funding for the Canadian Television Fund and Telefilm Canada.
- Enhancing federal film incentives to encourage film and television production.
- Establishing a forum with film distributors to agree on targets and a strategy to screen and distribute domestic films in Canada

**5) Honouring Canada's Past, Looking to Our Future**

**a) Does your party support the development of a new Canadian museums policy, which would include the investment of new monies in sustained, multi-year, predictable programs?**

NDP cultural heritage critic Charlie Angus hosted a successful Town Hall to discuss the critical need for a new Canadian Museums Policy. Angus also submitted a brief to the Minister of Canadian Heritage regarding NDP support for the development of a new Canadian Museums policy and increased funding.

Angus and the NDP believe that a major component in building a new museum policy is community support for local heritage. Building supportive communities that care about their heritage will create an environment for Canadians to be more receptive to learning about our culture and history in larger national museums and will strengthen the relevance of all museums.

New Democrats support significant investment in regional and national museums funding, including support for the following recommendations:

- Funding must be more stable and predictable. Stable core funding is a major priority, and the flat line in spending must be addressed.
- The Federal government could play a role in developing the national significance of smaller museum collections by focused funding that encourages networking.
- Increasing investment in research of collections and acquisitions is central to updating exhibits and keeping museums relevant. As Canada's population changes, we must tell our stories in new ways. Museums require research budget support to help challenge our perceptions of history and to respond to changing audience interest.

**b) What are your party's specific plans to provide incentives and opportunities for young Canadians to become more active in the arts and culture?**

There is no doubt that there should be more incentives and opportunities for young Canadians to become more active in the arts. That's why as a first step, the NDP will provide opportunities for young Canadians to become more active in the arts and culture by improving all areas of education, including arts and cultural studies. We'll offer the provinces and territories a binding commitment to stable, long-term funding for education through a dedicated transfer, in return for an equally binding commitment to better access and lower tuition fees – standards that will be monitored and enforced.

**c) Would your party commit to a national mentorship strategy to facilitate skills development for Canadians who want to pursue careers in the arts and cultural labour force?**

New Democrats would be supportive of attempts to establish a national mentorship strategy to facilitate skills development for Canadians who want to pursue careers in the arts and cultural labour force.