

Dear [Candidate]:

As a concerned Canadian, I am writing to urge you and your Party to publicly support arts and culture in Canada.

All Canadians benefit from arts and culture in Canada. The issues presented below are vitally important not only to members in the arts and cultural sector, but also to the Canadian public at large. As such, I would like to know where you and your party stands on a number of arts and cultural issues as your answers will help to determine my vote.

Where do you stand in honouring the November 23 funding commitment, which includes an increase to the Canada Council for the Arts, in the 2006 Federal Budget?

Where do you stand in introducing policies to ensure fair tax treatment of artists by the Canada Revenue Agency, including improved tax exemptions and access to social benefits without jeopardizing the status of self-employed contractors?

Where do you stand in maintaining policies that restrict foreign ownership of media and cultural industries, and curb the concentration of ownership to strengthen domestic cultural expression?

Where do you stand in terms of increasing funding to the CBC on a multi-year basis and in upholding the cultural objectives of the Broadcasting Act in the 21st Century?

Where do you stand in restoring arts and culture as the “third pillar” of Canada’s international diplomacy, and adding additional financial resources to Foreign Affairs?

If elected, will you and your party “walk the talk” and work to ensure public support for the arts and culture in Canada?

I await your reply,

[enter name here]