



**THE 2006 FEDERAL ELECTION: COMPARISON OF THE FIVE MAJOR PARTIES'
RESPONSES TO CCA'S DECEMBER 20th QUESTIONNAIRE**

❖ **CCA PRIORITY ISSUE 1: INVESTING IN CANADA'S ARTS AND CULTURE**

- 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?
- 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?
- 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?

RESPONSE TO CCA QUESTIONNAIRE

BLOC

(CCA TRANSLATION)

a) Two years ago, the Bloc Québécois supported the proposal by the "Mouvement pour les arts et les lettres" to increase the budget by \$300 million. This commitment, part of our 2004 election platform, was constantly reiterated by the Bloc Québécois during the last session. We intend to pressure the federal government to ensure that this increase, which is vital for the efficient functioning of the Canada Council, is included in the next budget.

b) The Bloc Québécois believes that federal cultural programs, including international tours, should come under the Canada Council. The public diplomacy program does not seem appropriate as it serves more to promote Canada than to promote culture. We believe that cultural program funding should be transferred to the Canada Council.

c) The Bloc Québécois thinks that the *Tomorrow Starts Today* initiative should become permanent and that its funding should be indexed yearly

CONSERVATIVE

In response to your letter of December 20, 2005, please be assured that the Conservative Party of Canada supports arts and culture, and the preservation of Canada's diverse heritage. Arts, culture and heritage make a substantial contribution to Canadian society and in a positive way, affect the quality of life of many Canadians. While recognizing Canada's diverse culture and shared heritage, we will work to strengthen opportunities and accessibility in both the domestic and international markets for our creative works.

Although we would need to see a definitive plan before making a specific funding commitment to any group or organization, please be assured that funding for Canada's arts and culture communities would be a priority for a Conservative government. The Conservative party believes that government support should be linked to accountability, transparency and sustainability. A review of programs and policies will ensure that they effectively meet their objectives, are based on merit, and remove political involvement from the process.

GREEN *No response as of January 17 2006*

LIBERAL The Liberal Government is committed to supporting and promoting Canada's artists and creators on the domestic and international stage. Support for Canada's major arts institutions is a long-term objective of the Liberal government. The Liberal commitment to the arts is typified by our commitments to the *Tomorrow Starts Today Initiative*, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

In 2001, the Liberal Government announced the *Tomorrow Starts Today initiative*, which provides major support for Canadian arts and culture. Since its introduction, the initiative has provided almost \$740 million to all aspects of the creative process.

On December 15, 2004, the Minister of Canadian Heritage announced that this initiative would be extended for another year with a budget of up to \$192 million. Budget 2005 further extended \$172 million of new funding per year for another four years, for a total of \$688 million. This brings total new funding for *Tomorrow Starts Today* to \$860 million over five years. This multi-year investment will help create stability within the arts and culture community by providing predictable levels of funding in the years to come.

On November 23rd 2005, the Liberal Government committed \$342 million over the next three years to increase funding for arts organizations throughout Canada. This type of investment helps build vibrant communities that contribute to the social and economic development of every part of Canada. The new funding will allow arts organizations in all regions of Canada to attain new standards of creative excellence and innovation and provide for artists' tours and shows, both in Canada and abroad.

NDP a) 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) 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) 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.

❖ **CCA PRIORITY ISSUE 2: EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR CANADIAN ARTISTS AND CREATORS**

- a) Does your party support the objectives of CCA's "Fair Tax Treatment of Professional Artists Campaign"? (See <http://www.ccarts.ca/en/fairtax.htm>)
- b) Does your party support the development of a program by which self-employed workers, dependent contractors, and Canadians in other non-standard work could access full social benefits without the loss of their self-employment status?
- 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?

RESPONSE TO CCA QUESTIONNAIRE

BLOC

(CCA TRANSLATION)

a) Both in Québec and in Canada, artists live in a precarious situation, and occasionally receive large lump sum payments for work that extends over a long period of time.

Because the professional status of artists as well as of cultural and communications professionals is so precarious, the Bloc Québécois believes that we must act at once. It therefore calls on the federal government to allow for the averaging of artist income over five years. This measure is already in force in several countries, including Germany, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, etc.

It allows artists to better absorb the fluctuations in their income and to account more efficiently their method of remuneration. The Bloc Québécois will introduce a bill providing for income averaging over five years for artists.

b) There are two and a half more self-employed workers in the cultural sector than in the rest of the labour force (27.4% vs. 10.4%). Artists are therefore in a very precarious situation. Compare this with the fact that from 1991 to 2001, the cultural work force grew in Québec by 23.9%, according to a January 2005 study by the Institut de la statistique du Québec.

Furthermore, as more than a quarter of cultural workers are self-employed, they do not have access to Employment Insurance, which does not apply to non-standard work. The television, film and culture work force has a precarious status and fluctuating income.

The Bloc Québécois is calling on the government to create a framework that will extend Employment Insurance regular and special benefits to self-employed workers, many of whom are cultural workers.

c) Following the death on the Order Paper of Bill C-60 amending the Copyright Act, the Bloc Québécois notes that even though Canada ratified over ten years ago World Intellectual Property Organization treaties, it still does not live up to its commitments. Could we expect anything different from a government that abuses copyright in its own election ads?

For its part, the Bloc Québécois intends to bring up as soon as possible

the issue of an in-depth reform of the Act by ensuring that it is done for the benefit rather than at the expense of creators.

CONSERVATIVE

No response in January 7 2006 letter

GREEN

No response as of January 17 2006

LIBERAL

The Department of Canadian Heritage offers a number of important programs to provide support to Canadian artists. One example is the *Cultural Initiatives Program*, which facilitates the involvement of artists from across Canada in over 150 national and international art festivals and special art events. Canadian Heritage also operates a national arts training contribution program, supporting national institutions that prepare young people for professional arts careers.

The Canadian Council of Arts, an arms-length government organization that fosters and promotes the study and production of works in the arts, is another key mechanism that supports Canada's artists. In 2004, the Council distributed \$132.3 million in grants and prizes to 6,100 artists and art institutions and 14,441 writers.

The Liberal government also recognizes that reduced taxes help ease the financial burden on low-income Canadians, including many of our artists. That is why the Liberal government, starting with Budget 2000, consistently implemented policies to reduce taxation. The tax rate for individuals who make less than \$35,000 annually has now been reduced to 16 percent.

Furthermore, Budget 2005 committed to the progressive increase of the basic amount Canadian's can earn without paying federal income tax. By 2009, the taxation threshold will increase from \$8,000 to \$10,000. This will keep more money in the pockets of the Canadians who need it the most, including our artists and creators.

NDP

a) 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) 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 Québec, introduce an exemption for the first \$30,000 on copyright and certain royalty income.
- Protecting children in the arts.

c) 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.

❖ **CCA PRIORITY ISSUE 3: CANADA'S BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS**

- 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 long-term, stable funding for the CBC?**
- 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?**
- 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?**

RESPONSE TO CCA QUESTIONNAIRE

BLOC

(CCA TRANSLATION)

a) We consider it appropriate to provide for stable funding.

The Bloc Québécois reminds all parties that the CBC is independent from government as far as programming is concerned. Only the CRTC can, upon license renewal, impose conditions regarding regional and local services. It has the authority to do so, although it does not use it.

That is why the Bloc Québécois would be amenable to a possible reopening of the Broadcasting Act to include increased regional representation in the public broadcaster's mandate.

b) The emergence of satellite radio has been a blow for Canadian, and therefore Québec cultural sovereignty. The Bloc Québécois has denounced in the House, outside the House, in the media and before the CRTC this decision that recognizes a mere 10% of French channels against 90% American content.

Unfortunately, technology appears to drive policy rather than the other way around. The Bloc Québécois considers it essential to revise the Broadcasting Act in order to reflect that principles enshrined in the Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

c) The Bloc Québécois intends to introduce amendments to the Copyright Act to adequately protect creators.

CONSERVATIVE

Regarding the nation's broadcasting system, the Conservative Party believes in a stable Canadian presence in a varied and vibrant broadcasting system. The Canadian broadcasting system should offer a wide range of Canadian and international programming, while being respectful of Canadian content. The system should provide audiences

with maximum choice and have the ability to utilize new technologies to achieve its public and private objectives.

The CBC-SRC is an important part of the broadcasting system in Canada. It must be a true public service broadcaster, relevant to Canadians. The Conservative Party will focus the CBC-SRC services on its mandates as public broadcasting services.

The Conservative Party recognizes the vital role played by the private broadcasters of Canada through their local and regional programming that reflects the language and multicultural realities of our country. Private sector broadcasters and service-providers first and foremost are businesses and must be able to compete in an ever-increasing fragmented and global market. The Conservative Party recognizes the need for both regulatory flexibility and predictability.

Broadcasting policy in Canada must be relevant in today's communications environment and responsive to the demands of Canadians. The Conservative Party will review and update the Broadcasting Act to ensure its relevance in today's technological environment. The Conservative Party will establish clear, national policy directions and a framework that will maximize the freedom of choice and ensure that freedom of speech is respected. The CRTC's role in content regulation will be reduced to eliminate duplication where other legislation exists.

GREEN

No response as of January 17 2006

LIBERAL

The Liberal Government is committed to supporting Canada's vibrant communications industry, and ensuring that the integrity and sovereignty of Canada's culture is protected. The Liberal Government will continue to provide sustainable funding for key cultural institutions such as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), protect Canadian companies from the threat of foreign ownership, and help Canada's broadcasting industry keep up with the technological advancements of the digital world.

The CBC plays a unique and essential role in telling Canadian stories and showcasing Canadian talent. In Budget 2005, the Liberal Government committed an additional \$60 million in 2005—06 for the CBC. The Liberal government will also ensure that the CBC Board of Directors delivers a strategic plan for enhancing CBC television services in both French and English. The Liberal government is committed to providing the CBC with stable, predictable support to ensure that they can continue to operate at the highest level, and continue to uphold the principles of Canadian content legislation.

The Liberal government places a heavy emphasis on Canadian content. Culturally, Canadian programs and music give voice to Canadians, to their talent and their shared experiences. Economically, it means jobs for thousands of Canadians — from creation to production and distribution on the airwaves. In light of conflicting reports from two House of Commons committees on the issue of foreign ownership, the Liberal Government firmly reiterated that it has

no intention to modify foreign limits on broadcasting or general content.

In response to the many challenges in technology, the Liberal Government will focus on addressing the remaining digital transition issues that are not being dealt with by the current proposed regulatory approaches. This includes encouraging HDTV broadcasting and production, preserving our audio-visual content, and the role that the public broadcaster can play in the digital transition.

The Liberal Government recognizes that it needs to take the necessary steps today to plan for the future of the Canadian broadcasting system. As such, we will undertake several initiatives to assess the trends in the adoption of various technologies, and evaluate their impact on current regulatory and policy models.

NDP

a) 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) 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) 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 Québec to introduce an exemption for the first \$30,000 on copyright and certain royalty income.

❖ **CCA PRIORITY ISSUE 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?
- 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?
- 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?

RESPONSE TO CCA QUESTIONNAIRE

BLOC

(CCA TRANSLATION)

a) The elimination of foreign ownership restrictions in the telecommunications and broadcasting systems poses a real threat to Québec culture. Because of technological changes in these areas, telecommunications carriers have become involved in content distribution. Therefore, an increase to more than 46.7% of foreign capital in telecommunications carriers will necessarily have an impact on television, radio and newspaper content. In other words, a removal of foreign ownership restrictions in telecommunications amounts to not less than a sell-out of our culture! With its commitment to preserve, enrich and develop our cultural heritage, the Bloc Québécois is firmly opposed to it and will always work to defend that position.

b) Bloc Québécois supports the principles of cultural diversity and information diversity. The Bloc Québécois does not want to specify limits with regards to media concentration, but wants to ensure compliance with the aforementioned principles, while respecting of course Québec's jurisdiction.

c) The Bloc Québécois policies for art and culture which form part of its election platform can be found on its website www.bloc.org.

CONSERVATIVE

No response in January 7 2006 letter

GREEN

No response as of January 17 2006

LIBERAL

The Liberal Government is committed to sustaining Canada's distinctive cultural industries. Through its membership in the WTO, Canada has entered into a number of General Agreements on Trade in Services (GATS), and has established itself as one of the most open service economies in the world. At the same time, however, Canada has reserved its right to maintain certain measures that are not consistent with the market access and national treatment obligations of the GATS. The purpose of this is to ensure that Canada preserves policy flexibility in areas of key domestic importance such as cultural products.

The Liberal Government will not make any market access commitments that restrict its ability to achieve its cultural policy

objectives until a new international instrument for culture can be established. Work on a convention with these objectives is now under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

NDP

a) 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) 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) 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

❖ **CCA PRIORITY ISSUE 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?**
- 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?**
- c) **Will 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?**

RESPONSE TO CCA QUESTIONNAIRE

BLOC

(CCA TRANSLATION)

a) The Bloc Québécois considers the development of cultural policies a matter for the government of Québec and the provinces rather than the government of Canada. The Canadian constitution is quite clear in this regard, and Québec has historically voiced many demands in this area.

However, until Québec repatriates all of its constitutionally exclusive powers, the Bloc Québécois considers the museum policy in effect since 1972 totally obsolete, and calls on the government to update it.

As soon as the House of Commons reconvenes, the Bloc Québécois intends to call for a review of the museum policy, and to demand that the Heritage Committee submits recommendations to this effect to the Minister. Nonetheless, it appears premature to cost out this new policy.

b) Solving the fiscal imbalance will allow Québec to provide incentives for young people to get involved in the arts and culture through education and through the Cultural Affairs Department.

c) In our view, this is strictly a matter for the National Assembly.

CONSERVATIVE

No response in January 7 2006 letter

GREEN

No response as of January 17 2006

LIBERAL

The Liberal Government is committed to developing a new museums policy that enables Canada museums to enhance their infrastructure and reach the objectives of participation, preservation and sustainability. By enhancing Canadians' knowledge of their rich shared past, a new policy will strengthen their sense of who we are. The Liberal Government is committed to working with stakeholders in developing an updated policy that will assist museums to position themselves to meet the challenges they face and to mobilize the support they need from all stakeholders.

The Department of Canadian Heritage has under taken several different forms of consultation with key industry stakeholders, including a Round Table Discussion in late June 2005. The Liberal Government was in the process of developing a new program to support Canadian museums when the Opposition parties forced an early election.

Over the next decades, Canada will experience the aging of its population, as the baby boom generation enters retirement age and is replaced by fewer younger workers. This poses challenges to Canada's economic and fiscal prospects that need to be addressed now. The Liberal Government is committed to making the investments necessary to assist Canada's emerging generation in succeeding those that have come before them.

To ensure that Canadians can acquire the skills they need in the coming years, the 2005 *Economic and Fiscal Update* commits \$7.6 billion over this year and the next five years to ensure Canada continues to benefit from a world-class learning system. This funding will ensure that the Canadian labour force and members of the cultural sector in particular, have opportunities to develop and enhance their skills, thus preparing them to lead Canada into the 21st century.

NDP

a) NDP 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) 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) 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.
