



# USEFUL QUOTES

Canadian Conference of the Arts ~ Conférence canadienne des arts

***"What kind of Canada do we want? What kind of a country do we want to build?.... A Canada overflowing with artistic creativity ..."***

PRIME MINISTER PAUL MARTIN, Reply to the Speech from the Throne, 3 February 2004

***"The arts" - as we've come to term them - are not a frill. They are the heart of the matter, because they are about our hearts, and our technological inventiveness is generated by our emotions, not by our minds. A society without the arts would have broken its mirror and cut out its heart. It would no longer be what we now recognize as human."***

MARGARET ATWOOD, excerpt from Scientific Romancing, the 2004 Kesterton Lecture, delivered 22 January 2004 at the Carleton School of Journalism.

***"The importance of engaging young people in artistic activity is critical to their evolution as creative thinkers. It is they who will soon be leading Canada's growth in terms of cultural, social and economic development.... A curriculum that integrates artistic expression promotes successful learning outcomes that benefit young people, educators, the artistic community - and Canada's overall development."***

ARTSSMARTS: Using the power of the arts to release the creative potential of young people, A handbook for artists and educators (2003)

***"Art is my job and my love. I would be very much in need without my art.... People often treat art as though it is very different from any other profession and ask, why would you want to keep doing this? This is my job and my love. I cannot imagine life without art."***

KENOJUAK ASHEVAK, Inuit artist and carver from Cape Dorset, Nunavut. Quoted in the Globe and Mail, 20 October 2003.

***"The fact is that art and culture in this country are special. Art and culture are special in the life of a nation."***

WENDY LILL, Address to the House of Commons, March 2003

***"The ability and capacity of our young people to imagine and create their futures will determine our future as a nation, including how richly we experience that future. We must value creativity and foster it in every conceivable way."***

DR PETER HACKETT, Vice President/ Research, National Research Council of Canada

***"The great importance of education in the arts is the ability acquired to make connections between seemingly isolated events or concepts, sometimes referred to as lateral thinking."***

LEONARD LEE, President, Lee Valley Tools; Founding Chair, Collegium of Work and Learning

***"...I would like to express my sincere gratitude to that great institution, the Canada Council for the Arts, without whose grant I could not have brought together this story .... If we, citizens, do not support our artists, then we sacrifice our imagination to the altar of crude reality and we end up believing in nothing and having worthless dreams."***

YANN MARTEL, introduction to Life of Pi, winner of the Man Booker Prize (2002)

***"The management of projects and contracts, as opposed to core funding, can lead many nonprofit organizations to devote a disproportionate amount of time and resources to meeting more extensive monitoring, reporting, and evaluation requirements."***

THE NONPROFIT SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT IN A NEW CENTURY (p27),  
edited by Kathy L Brock and Keith G Banting

***"... arts and culture are about more than economic growth. About more than the Gross Domestic Product. Our artists, writers and performers enrich the quality of our lives. They can inspire and challenge us. They can help us understand our past. They can help us know who we are. They can help us to imagine new possibilities, new choices for the future. Arts and culture are not for the few. Cultural participation develops our creativity, enriches our citizenship, feeds the spirit. Arts and culture must be integrated into our lives and our***



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**communities."**

former PRIME MINISTER JEAN CHRÉTIEN, announcing the Tomorrow Starts Today funding (May 2001)

**"...culture is not just any commodity 'like pork rinds or brass tacks. Culture is not just entertainment. It is the expression of the soul and the identity of the country.'"**

SHEILA COPPS, former Minister of Canadian Heritage, quoted in the Globe & Mail, 2 May 2000, speaking at the annual congress of the International Press Institute, Boston

**"The basis of artistic creativity is built on the foundation of freedom of expression and artistic independence, two principles that must continue to be the cornerstone of any government support of culture and the arts."**

SHEILA COPPS, in an address to delegates at the World Summit on the Arts and Culture, Ottawa, December 2000

**"The great role of the artist is to add an eighth day to creation, to render the impossible possible. ... A few little words, four musical notes, just 26 letters in the alphabet - with these tiny tools art recreates the universe and penetrates the heart of humanity. ... The responsibility of the visionary, of the artist, is to create a society in which all people can be at home."**

ANTONINE MAILLET, author, World Summit on the Arts and Culture, Ottawa, December 2000

**"For artists, copyright is especially crucial because artists are rarely paid by society as other workers are - they tend to be self-employed and lack annual salaries and benefits. Revenues from their copyright work are therefore essential."**

FRANÇOIS COLBERT, professor, Chair in Arts Management at l'École des hautes études de Montréal, and Vice-Chair of the Canada Council, World Summit on the Arts and Culture, Ottawa, December 2000

**"We are benefiting at last from a cultural renaissance, largely state supported, that is our inner strength. This may not be Canada's century, but if we have learned one lesson it is this: the nation is bound together by its creative artists, and not by parallel lines of rusting steel."**

PIERRE BERTON, Globe and Mail, 12 July 1999

**"We all have to help the arts.... without the arts, life loses a good part of its potential significance."**

MITCHELL SHARP, The Ottawa Citizen, Monday 30 March 1998

**"The arts are intrinsic to a sense of nation. They are intrinsic to the cultivation of a shared identity. They are intrinsic to a prosperous economy."**

DAVID LEMON (Vancouver businessman, arts supporter, in an address to the Board of Trade Business and Arts Awards luncheon, November 1993)

**"... the arts, like education, health and social security, are universal goods that ought to be generally available regardless of ability to pay."**

SIR WILLIAM REES-MOGG (former chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain)

**"The history of both science and the arts has a common origin in the cave paintings of some fifteen thousand years ago. At a time when survival was a daily miracle, our ancestors found within themselves the resources to record the world around them.... For most of human history it is art that has been in the ascendancy.... for it was art that had more to tell the world than science."**

JOHN POLANYI (remarks made on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Killam Prizes for Science, awarded by the Canada Council, Toronto April 1990)



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***"A country's literature is a crystal ball into which its people may look to understand their past and their present, and to find some foretaste of their future."***

ROBERTSON DAVIES (1988 Neil Gunn lecture, delivered in Edinburgh)

**"A nation which does not read or hear or watch its own artists is bent on severing its own lifeline."**

MAVOR MOORE 1980

***"The cultural industries are bigger than steel in Canada, they're bigger than pulp and paper. Some \$6 billion a year. It's a big industry. And we have to remember that - we the audience, we the outsiders, we the government, we the onlookers. That if an artist creates and performs for himself or herself, he's also up against industrial competition. In Hollywood, in New York, in Europe and other parts of the world. And that's why it's not any more possible for any country to be without a cultural policy than it is to be without an industrial policy. I like to think that the people of Canada - those who listen and hear you and often adore you, those who buy your records, watch your programs, go to your shows - I like to think that they are aware of that. And that the people they elect are aware of that too. Because it's extraordinarily important that a policy be set up to make sure that the artist is not overwhelmed by the industry."***

Former PRIME MINISTER PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU, at the Juno Awards, 31 March 1979

***"We know intuitively that we will become great only when we translate our force and knowledge into spiritual and artistic terms. Then, and only then will it matter to mankind whether Canada has existed or not."***

HUGH MACLENNAN, essayist and novelist, from *The Other Side of Hugh MacLennan*, 1978.

***"It has been suggested to us that one measure of the degree of civilization attained by a nation might fairly be the extent to which the nation's creative artists are supported, encouraged and esteemed by the nation as a whole."***

MASSEY-LÉVESQUE REPORT (Report of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences 1949-1951)

