

September 17, 2008

RE: Questionnaire

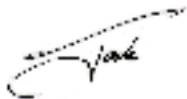
Attached please find the response of Canada's New Democrats to your 2008 Election questionnaire. It is the policy of our party to respond on behalf of all New Democrat candidates.

Our full platform will be released shortly and our web site is updated with all of our latest information. To find out more, we encourage you to consult: www.ndp.ca

Thank you for your interest in the views of Canada's New Democrats on the critical issues facing Canadians.

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

Sincerely,



Jack Layton
Leader of Canada's New Democrats

Question 1

New Democrats believe diversity and freedom of expression are central to our cultural identity and fundamental for a vibrant democracy and that the Conservative decision to cut key arts programs is a deliberate attack on the independence of the Canadian arts industry. An NDP government would reverse efforts to legislate censorship and would reverse the recent cuts to arts programs by the Conservative government; introduce better rules for Canadian content; increase public funding for the arts and support to artists; end the practice of net throttling by which big telecom companies rip-off consumers; strengthen public broadcasting by providing stable, long-term funding the CBC and Radio Canada; and ensure any new copyright legislation fairly addresses compensation for artists and be developed through proper stakeholder consultations with artists, artist organizations, educators, software innovators and consumer groups and others.

Question 2

As stated in the answer above, New Democrats would involve artists and their organizations in consultations before the development of new legislation like reforms to the *Copyright Act*.

Question 3

New Democrats have long supported significant investment in museums. We feel that in order for Canadian museums and other heritage institutions to continue telling the story of Canada, funding must be more stable and predictable and that encourages networking so that small museums can share their collections with others. Increased investment in research of collections and acquisitions is also central to the continued updating of exhibits which keeps our museums relevant. Museums need research budget support to help challenge our perceptions of history and to respond to changing audience interest.

Question 4

Canada is home to a multi-million dollar arts and film industry. The Harper cuts have damaged the economic viability of this cultural industry that creates thousands of well-paying jobs. Clearly, it is bad fiscal management to slash important programs like PromArt and Trade Routes. Programs like these are instrumental to making the arts industry and international force and help Canadian artists to market and promote their work around the world. New Democrats support restoration of these programs and a review of Canada's international policy statement to restore arts and culture as a key aspect of public diplomacy.

Question 5

Jack Layton's New Democrats were quick to condemn the Conservative's changes to Canada's copyright laws. New Democrats are pushing for proper legislation that will ensure artists and creators are compensated for their work while allowing consumers

reasonable rights of access. Over the past two years we have urged the Conservative government to consult with stakeholders and develop relevant legislation that would protect artists, innovators and consumers in the 21st century. However, the Conservative government has completely ignored all calls to bring forward reasonable copyright legislation and regrettably this bill is worse than originally feared. There is no evidence of any attempt to strike a reasonable balance to protect either artists or consumers. Instead, C-61 represents a full capitulation to the U.S. corporate lobby that will pave the way for the criminalization of perfectly reasonable behaviour--like format shifting of most legally purchased content.

As mentioned in the answer to question one, the NDP's approach to new copyright legislation would be to ensure any new copyright legislation fairly addresses compensation for artists and be developed through proper stakeholder consultations with artists, artist organizations, educators, software innovators and consumer groups and others.

Question 6

As part of a larger employment skills education and training program, an NDP government would be open to considering proposals to include the training of creators.

Question 7

As stated in the answer to question 4, New Democrats support restoration of programs like PromArt and Trade Routes and would support a review of Canada's international policy on arts and culture as a key aspect of public diplomacy.

Question 8

Canada's New Democrats believe Canadian cultural industries must be owned by Canadians and are concerned that Canadian independence and our valuable cultural assets are increasingly at risk, and the federal Conservative government does not seem to mind. To this end we would work to ensure that Canadian television networks remain Canadian owned. We would also continue to promote an independent foreign policy, where Canada is a leader in negotiating fair trade deals that protect cultural diversity without interference from foreign interests.

Question 9

Over the last number of years Canadians have witnessed increasing integration of the telecommunications and broadcast industries. In most regions of the country, the major media and telecom markets have become increasingly concentrated in the hands of one or two players. The result has been stripped down local coverage and a disappearance of diversity of voice. The Liberals and Conservatives have stood on the sidelines allowing merger after merger. The result has been that the corporate sector is feeling increasingly emboldened. New Democrats oppose this loss of choice and are very concerned about

maintaining the diversity of Canadian voices in regional markets and in the broadcast sector in general. Therefore any moves in the broadcast/telecom industry for further integration must take place with the interests of ensuring a diversity of Canadian broadcast voices.

Question 10

Canada's New Democrats believe Canadian cultural industries must be owned by Canadians and are concerned that Canadian independence and our valuable cultural assets are increasingly at risk, and the federal Conservative government does not seem to mind.. To this end we would work to ensure that Canadian television networks remain Canadian owned. We would also continue to promote an independent foreign policy, where Canada is a leader in negotiating fair trade deals that protect cultural diversity without interference from foreign interests.

Question 11

New Democrats led the Parliamentary review of the future of the Canadian Television Fund. We pushed for clear rules on ensuring that the cable giants live up to their obligations to fund the Canadian Television Fund. We oppose the CRTC recommendations to split the Canadian Television Fund (CTF) into private and public streams.

The reality is the CTF is already a market-driven, results-based fund for Canadian shows. The proposed two-stream approach is a backward step that will give the cable and satellite giants unfair control over a fund that should be used for developing creative and original content.

Canada's New Democrats will ensure that the CTF remains strong and fully funded so that original and entertaining Canadian drama can continue to be made in Canada.

Question 12

New Democrats led the Parliamentary review of the CBC mandate. We pushed forward with a very definitive commitment to long-term stable funding for the CBC. This funding will be maintained through an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the CBC and Parliament. This MOU will give the CBC the freedom and clarity it needs to make long-term planning without having to beg, cap in hand, to the various governments of the day.

At the same time, the MOU will lay out clear obligations for the CBC to deliver original, top quality Canadian programming in radio and television. This programming will ensure both a regional and a national voice for the nation's broadcaster.