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## CCA Releases Study of Government Spending on Culture

OTTAWA – The Canadian Conference of the Arts is pleased to announce the release of a new report on government funding for the arts. The report, titled “**Government Spending on Culture in Canada, 1992-93 to 2002-03**”, was commissioned by the CCA from Hill Strategies Research Inc.

The report examines spending on culture by federal, provincial, and municipal governments in Canada, focusing largely on changes in spending between the years 1992-93 and 2002-03. It also provides a more detailed overview of government cultural spending for fiscal year 2002-03.

Using *Statistics Canada's Survey of Government Expenditures on Culture* as a reference, the information is examined by cultural subsector, by level of government, by province, and in relation to population size. Several key findings emerge, including the following:

- Total government spending on culture, including transfers, was \$7.4 billion in 2002-03. Of that total, heritage and libraries received \$3.7 billion (50%), the cultural industries received \$2.5 billion (34%), multiculturalism and other cultural activities received \$690 million (9%), and the arts received the smallest share at \$550 million (7%).
- The contributions of each level of government to the \$7.4 billion in cultural spending in 2002-03 were as follows:
  - Federal: \$3.4 billion (46% of total, or \$109 per capita);
  - Provincial: \$2.1 billion (28% of total, or \$67 per capita); and
  - Municipal: \$1.9 billion (25% of total, or \$60 per capita).
- Of the \$550 million spent by all levels of government on the arts in 2002-03:
  - \$243 million was spent by the federal government (44%, or \$8 per capita);
  - \$283 million was spent by provincial governments (51%, or \$9 per capita); and
  - \$24 million was spent by municipal governments (4%, or \$1 per capita).
- Per capita government cultural spending increased in four provinces between 1992-93 and 2002-03: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Quebec. Per capita government cultural spending decreased in the other six provinces: Alberta, Ontario, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador.
- After adjusting for inflation, total government spending on culture decreased by 0.3% between 1992-93 and 2002-03. In comparison:
  - The number of cultural workers increased by 20% between 1991 and 2001;
  - The number of artists increased by 29% between 1991 and 2001;

- Consumer spending on culture increased by 19% between 1997 and 2003;
- The population of Canada grew by 11% between 1992 and 2002; and
- Canada's Gross Domestic Product grew by 39% between 1992 and 2002.

These comparisons clearly demonstrate that government spending has failed to keep pace with substantial growth in the culture sector over the past decade. They also reveal the relatively low level of support for the arts.

Over the past 60 years, governments have played a fundamental role in the growth of the arts, culture and cultural industries in Canada. They have provided the solid foundation on which many of our most important arts organizations and cultural industries have been built. Inadequate levels of government investment will have a grave impact on the culture sector's ability to create, produce, distribute, and preserve Canada's cultural heritage.

The CCA/Hill Strategies report can be found in its entirety on the CCA website at <http://www.ccarts.ca/en/advocacy/publications/policy/#funding>. It contains a great wealth of detailed information on tri-level government funding for culture in Canada.

*Sixty years strong, the Canadian Conference of the Arts is the national forum for the arts and cultural community in Canada. It serves as a leader, authority, and catalyst to ensure that artists can contribute freely and fully to a creative, dynamic, and civil Canadian society.*

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