



**2019 Federal Election
Arts and Creative Industries
Policy Questionnaire**

Gillian Walker
Green Party of Canada
Moose Jaw-Lake Centre-Lanigan

1. **Investing in the arts is an investment in the economy:** Statistics Canada reports that the direct economic impact of culture products was \$53.1 billion in Canada in 2017 or 2.3% of the national GDP. There were 666,474 culture jobs. ([Stats Canada](#))

How will you work to protect and increase funding for arts and culture agencies? Critical to this question is funding of central federal agencies such as the Canada Council for the Arts, CBC, Canada Media Fund, and others.

A: I have no idea

2. **Remuneration for artists and creators** has not evolved as technology has, for example illegal file-sharing software and the advent of online streaming platforms have disrupted the creative industries. The Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage's report "[Shifting Paradigms](#)" (May 2019), makes recommendations for copyright reform. Many of the recommendations, such as Artist's Resale Right, are essential to the ability of artists and creators to be recognized and compensated for their creative work.

Will you work to implement copyright reform to modernize remuneration models and level the playing field for artists and creative industries?

A: Yes. I will seek out experts in this field, to help me make the best discussion for my constituents.

3. **Artists and cultural workers** are an important and dynamic component of the Canadian creative economy. Yet, they typically contend with precarious working conditions, working from contract to contract and without pensions, benefits or job security. According to Statistics Canada (2016), 52% of artists are self-employed, compared with only 12% of all Canadian workers. ([Hill Strategies Research](#))

What is your plan to improve the precarious situation of artists and cultural workers, including any changes to Income Tax, Employment Insurance, or adding initiatives such as basic income and the like to make work-life more predictable and secure?

A: I don't have my own plan, but I am confident that the Green Party's goal of guaranteed livable income will assuage some stress for those self-employed in the arts sector.

4. **Canadians recognize arts and culture as important** to a shared sense of place, community cohesiveness, economy, innovation, formal and informal education, cultural diversity and development, as well as an understanding of human behaviour and the

world around us. ([Canadian Heritage](#))

How will you acknowledge and work to support the important role of arts and culture in the well-being of all aspects of society?

A: It is my opinion that the arts will become Canada's way forward. When I studied engineering it became clear to me that the technology and applications are changing at a rate our society cannot keep up with. Now that I am studying education I am attempting to prepare children for a future I cannot imagine. The majority of job they will hold have not even been invented yet. The answer in my mind is to teach creativity. Arts programs and communities teach what our society most desperately need to keep up. We need critical thinkers, people challenging cultural norms and practice viewing perspectives. Without the arts in our classrooms and communities, I believe Canada will struggle to become a world leader.