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

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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: As an independent candidate, I do not have a "party platform" to stick to. Obviously my job as an elected official is to represent the will of our local riding. I know that our local rural communities benefit from events like the fall culture days, our local arts and culture boards, and the public libraries. My own personal belief is that we need to strengthen the funding to our public broadcaster, CBC. I worry that our corporate media, with close ties to extractive industries, does not always provide truthful coverage of the news. I have always found the CBC to be the most unbiased reporter and prefer to consume their coverage. But I also really appreciate the focus on Canadian content that the CBC offers. I think funding for other agencies like the national film board and also important. I think an enlightened society values art, culture, drama, and musical creativity and performance. Canadians should aspire to see our arts and culture agencies thrive not just survive.

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. As a law student currently studying intellectual property law, I understand the importance of this issue. Our elected officials should be doing this important work of drafting and reviewing our legislation to ensure that our laws keep current to evolving technology. If only the electoral system were reformed to incorporate proportional representation, perhaps our elected officials would do their jobs rather than spending the last half of any mandate posturing politically in hopes to retain absolute power rather than doing the steady job of compromise and cooperation to address issue like this.

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 think a basic income makes sense as a sound social policy and should be implemented, not just for the benefit of artists and culture workers, but for all Canadians. In terms of tax reform, I would support more progressive taxation on income to tax those who can afford it and give relief to those who need it. More importantly I would look carefully at the corporate tax rate. Corporate taxation used to provide nearly half of government revenues, but the corporate tax revenues have declined by 75% in 45 years. So we need more corporate taxation and closing of the tax loopholes in order to fund the social programs like basic income and the funding mentioned in question 1.

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: I will commit to my ongoing support of local community culture days, I hope to continue to play in a community band (the Warman community band has been fantastic), and I am raising my children to embrace art, drama, and musical performance and I expect that my kids will continue to keep art and culture activities within their adult lives. I think my actions demonstrate my support of and acknowledgment that arts and culture play an important role in a well balanced society.