



**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: The People's Party of Canada at present does not have a published platform dedicated for the Arts and Creative Industries as it looks neither to interfere with the present policies or seek to add new ones at this time. There are a few exceptions, as the party is pushing for freedom of expression and protecting Canadians from censorship and discrimination opportunities which would allow for artistic expression and full spectrum viewpoints.

By looking to remove interprovincial trade barriers between provinces there should be a reduction in regulatory requirements between provinces effecting production-oriented arts. Promotion of Canadian film/stage grants, Canadian content regulations as exist for radio and television, and country-wide movie house exposure to provide opportunity to compete with International film houses will be put forward.

With move away from traditional television production models, private broadcasters are finding increased difficulty in financing and producing local Canadian content. A option to look at on a federal level would be of assisting the provincial tax credit levels per province with provision of a flat rate additional credit allowance which would provide additional funding potential while promoting Canadian cultural arts programming and employment.

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: The People's Party of Canada does not at present have a platform stance on this issue. It would be up to private members to review the information, champion it where applicable, and vote accordingly when legislation is brought to task. I am quite sure a few or more PPC members are

already familiar with this stance and hope they can provide a stronger answer. As a candidate running for the party at this time, I am not informed enough on this topic to make a statement. Information for review is being accumulated at this time. I can say that as a professional that creates through building design, copyright reform would be one of the items I would involve myself with. As to whether it would level the playing field for artists and creative industries would be a question based on details and to whom the field is being leveled against.

- 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: Artists through time have felt both ends of the economic spectrum, and the societal changes that value digital easily-stored media over past mediums has had an impact challenge the modern artist, but that is not directly a federal government issue. A cultural one, for sure. To that there are two sides to this answer with regards to the People's party of Canada. The first being that with an intended target to reduce federal government's involvement in free-market economies, and remove the roles assumed that are the constitutional responsibility of provinces, there would not be an initiative to provide basic income support for artists, or any working group beyond the standards already in place for employment insurance and similar provisions. With policies that look to decentralize and shrink government more money will stay in the province's hands to allocate for their artistic industries, which should provide more funding at sub-regional levels than federal grants that show regional preference for applicants.

The benefit here is that the People's Party does want to lower the taxes for all Canadians to allow for more earned money to stay in pocket from the start and not be forced to go through the system as taxes to be simply handed back at a lower value through boutique credits. Further there is an intent to significantly streamline the tax mechanisms, including paperwork and filing. For those working on commissions and other contracts, this could ease the burden of tax collection/repayment and other business-oriented requirements for artists.

As the CRA defines art as a business, all artists small to large are required to pay taxes, collect GST (where applicable), and file accordingly, with only the distinction between self-employed independent artists and salaried artists. Deductions vary per situation. With intent to reduce complexity and taxes taken there will be immediate benefits, however a full review of the tax obligations will be investigated such as getting a tax deduction for the year work was made based on expenses, over that of the year it was sold and moving some art donations from nonrefundable status to potentially refundable.

With the intent to end corporate welfare and show fairness to all regions of the country the impact will reach all industries, businesses, and taxpayers where the goal would be to limit and stop subsidizing businesses while also reducing their taxes. With more potential for profit over tax loss companies and individuals should have opportunities to provide more patronage to the arts industries and allow for growth and opportunity in a free-market environment. This would of course impact the CBC and look to move them on a competitive basis with Global, CTV and other network providers. An opportunity that could well grow the CBC's ability to expand their

television and radio programming offerings. As the PPC will look to build on cultural prosperity along with economic stability, there will be less paid out in debt repayments the presently cost Canadians over \$7B a year in repayments, that naturally over consecutive years provide more resources available for grants and public projects for all sectors including the arts industries.

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: As a practicing architect I have great appreciation for the role of art and its creative expression within our culture from writing through two-dimensional art, music, stage and movie mediums, to public sculpture and space design. Art in all fashions raises the quality of our individual, social, and cultural life and is benefited by discovery often providing the triggers for innovation that pervades all elements of our daily lives. The clear path is to make sure that the varied arts are funded in schools and that there are opportunities to promote those skills outside of it to keep pushing for a strong cultural creativity. While creativity does not stop at the medium, there are a number of ways that programs could be developed to facilitate opportunity. As an example, a federal initiative I am pushing for could benefit the arts through the establishment of a new Ministry of Buildings and Property in which we can achieve national goals for public / private space enhancement, National Park promotion, National Cinema House development and push for requirements to engage that space and buildings with art and other related expressions. This is but one of many ways the Federal Government can provide increased opportunity to the arts industries while still maintaining a free-market philosophy and economic stability. Dignity for the art industry needs to be maintained and promoted.