



**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 first plank of the Green Party platform on Arts and Culture is: “to increase funding to all of Canada’s arts and culture organizations including the Canada Council, the National Film Board and Telefilm Canada, orchestras, theatres and publishers.” A Green government would also increase funding to the CBC and Radio Canada by \$315 million per year until the per capita level of funding is equal to that of the BBC. We would legislate a 20% Canadian content rule for cinemas and increase support for community arts programs.

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: Copyright reform sounds like something the Green Party would support. Already we want to make sure to protect artists’ copyright so that it is not surrendered to museums or galleries in the process of exhibiting. We will also be setting a tax of 5% on internet streamers such as Netflix.

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: We would follow the recommendations of the Canadian Conference of the Arts to enable artist to access EI, Workers' Compensation, and the Canada Pension Plan. We would change the Canada Revenue Act to allow arts and culture workers to benefit from a tax averaging plan that will take into account the lean years that often precede a good year. And the Green Party intends to implement a Guaranteed Liveable Income, which would provide a base income and financial security to every Canadian, plus universal Childcare and a universal Pharmacare program. We would also eliminate income tax for anyone whose income is \$20,000 or less.

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: The Green Party doesn't think governments can create art, but we think they can create the right conditions to support those who do, and we intend to do that. In our beauty-starved world, artists feed our souls. The Greens' goal will be to make increases in this sector commensurate with increases in support for other sectors such as transport, energy and health. We would promote the message that the arts are not just a frill, but integral to our well-being, and far from costing taxpayers money, our cultural community is an economic engine that more than pays for itself.