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2019 Federal Election Arts and Cultural Industries Policy Questionnaire

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Context:

From the writers who tell our stories to the comedians who make us laugh to the artists whose music forms the soundtrack of our lives, Canadians are proud of the creativity we share with each other and the world. We will protect, promote and strengthen the culture that brings people together and makes us strong.

Highlight of accomplishments:

- Made the biggest reinvestments in our cultural and creative industries in Canada's history - investments that have helped stabilize CBC/Radio-Canada with a \$675 million funding boot, given more direct support to artists, and created more good jobs for the talented people who tell our stories.
- Funding increases to Telefilm Canada, Canada Council for the Arts, National Film Board, National Arts Centre, Canadian Media Fund, Canada Music Fund. Launching a review of the Copyright Act.
- Unprecedented investments in Indigenous cultures: supported indigenous artists and cultures through festivals, languages, the National Film Board, Telefilm Canada or the Canada Council for the Arts.
- Fought to gain a general cultural exemption from USA and Mexico under new NAFTA to protect industries.
- Nearly \$2 billion in cultural infrastructure as part of Investing in Canada Plan, helping upgrade facilities like theatres, museums, creative hubs.

Our commitments:

- To ensure more people have access to Canadian culture and artists can continue to tell our stories:
 - Introduce the Culture Pass, a \$200 credit every child will receive at age 12, to be used to access theatres, museums, galleries, workshops, and other cultural venues and local Canadian content;
 - Strengthen the regional mandate of CBC/RadioCanada, so that local stations can broadcast more local news; require CBC/Radio-Canada to open up its digital platform, so that journalism start-ups and community newspapers can access technology to develop and distribute local content;
 - Continue to support Canadian film by increasing annual funding for Telefilm Canada by nearly 50 per cent a year;
 - Review our national museums policy to make sure that people can access Canadian history across the country, with better access to digital collections; and will move forward with making the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Heritage Centre into a national museum
 - Introduce a new Cultural Diplomacy strategy, with at least one international mission each year to promote Canadian culture and creators around the world; and
 - Introduce legislation to ensure all content providers – including internet giants – offer meaningful levels of Canadian content in their catalogues, contribute to the creation of

Canadian content in both official languages, and promote this content and make it easily accessible on their platforms.

- Preserving Canada's heritage is essential to fostering a sense of connection between people, yet current legislation offers little direction on how Canada's heritage places are designated and protected, putting the preservation and care of these important places at risk. To provide clearer direction, we will move forward with new comprehensive heritage legislation on federally owned heritage places.

Contrasts:

- The CBC is an autonomous Crown corporation responsible for managing its own operations. The Conservatives would like to tell CBC and journalists what to cover and how, but that's not how democracy works.
- The Conservatives are attacking journalists and their independence and this rhetoric is awfully familiar and scary. Their conspiracy theories are insulting. Journalists are essential to our democracy.
- Launched Canada's first Creative Export Strategy of \$125 million over five years. Previous programs Trans Routes and PromArt were eliminated in 2008 by Conservatives.