

Dear,

I really enjoyed our conversation today and your receptiveness and interest in arts and culture and your knowledge about the importance of lifelong engagement in creativity for Canadians.

As promised a little more info about what the Canadian Coalition for the Arts is requesting on behalf of artists and communities from Coast to Coast to Coast:

We are looking for a commitment for the **Government of Canada to permanently allocate at least 1% of its overall spending towards arts, culture, and heritage every year.**

To achieve this for the 2025-26 fiscal year, the Government should increase its allocations by \$270 million, specifically:

- An increase of \$140 million to the Canada Council for the Arts; and
- An increase of \$130 million to the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Background:

There are more workers in the arts, culture, and heritage than in hospitals, wholesale trade, farms, and real estate. There were over **900,000 workers in arts, culture, and heritage occupations in Canada in 2021**, more than in agriculture, forestry and fishing combined.

We are central to our communities, offering social outreach, cultural education, community integration, and reflect the diversity of Canada.

We work with funders at all levels of government including (but not limited to) the **Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage** and others to create jobs, educate and engage our communities and this **investment from Government is repaid many times over through meaningful employment, social engagement, tax dollars and community vibrancy.**

Canadian artists are taxpayers and business people, and non profit arts and culture organizations bring tremendous value and employment to their communities.

As we discussed together, our own organisation provides full-time, year-round **employment for 11 people, with a further 25 in the summer**, and has put **over \$18 million of direct dollars back into our rural community** through construction, labour, food, accommodation, supplies, etc.

Investment in the arts and culture sector makes good fiscal sense and we want to ensure that all parties understand and advocate for the vital role the arts plays in communities across our country. We need your voice within your party to ensure that this investment is permanently expanded whether as opposition or in government.

As we discussed, it is so important to be able to have nuanced discussions together as neighbours in our communities and I am really grateful that you took the time to meet with me. Our next event is _____. We hope you can join us and continue to see and learn about the impact we have on our community every day and take that message back to your party to impact policy decisions.

Best wishes,