



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

Dale Dewar
Green Party of Canada
Regina-Qu'Appelle

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: Among "others" I would suggest increased funding to the Canada Council for the Arts, the National Film Board and Telefilm Canada. As a member of the Green Party, I support increased funding for the CBC specifically - the loss of it in the far North has been sorely felt - and its continued emphasis on Canadian talent. Rather than gut the Saskatchewan film industry as the Sask Party has done, we would energize it, maintain studios and provide tax credits for the use of Canadian talent.

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: We would certainly work to implement copyright reform. We would close all loopholes that exempt social media platforms from collecting tax revenue from advertising - a step necessary to limit foreign input and one which will could potentially slow down copyright reform.

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 believe the universality of a Guaranteed Liveable Income would fill the breach in the situation of artists and cultural workers. It is not the entire answer for the arts and cultural community but would be applicable immediately it was implemented. We can do it! It has been done experimentally twice in Canada with positive outcomes.

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: All Canadians do not recognize arts and culture as being as important as we do. Certainly having a government with policies that enhance life for artists creates a more hospitable climate for the flourishing of a vibrant arts and cultural community. Those of us with enough years to remember will recall the outpouring of artistic talent that occurred in the late 60's and 70's thanks to the NDP government of the day.

Besides the open awareness that having more accessible and intelligent granting systems for artists and cultural groups, utilizing the energy for restoration of historic sites and buildings would bring the past and present together in artistic endeavour. Working together on projects has been shown to be the best mechanism available to reduce prejudice and social unease; a special forum to identify places where history meets present and future would bring the arts in close contact with those elements in the community whose tendency is to cut arts funding.