



**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: I will be honest with you here, the Canada Council for the ARTS is a Crown Corporation that is largely funded by the taxpayers of Canada. There is no plans in the works to change the model in which this program runs, aside from the CBC. Our arts/music are of utmost importance to the Identity of Canadians, and to what unites us as Canadians. We are planning on deregulating the CRTC in order to bring more competition to telecommunications in order to help Canadians with the ridiculous pricing in cellular and internet services in comparison with other countries, and solely in this regard. We are the "Free Market" party and believe that if our product, in this case arts/music, are superior (and they certainly are) they will win out in the end. Our policy on the CBC is to change their business model to self supporting as all other media outlets are, we do not believe that a media outlet supported by the Government should have partisan views and participate in the political sphere and be paid by us (the Canadian taxpayer). CBC much like Global/City/independent Media derive their income from advertising and programming, and should not be solely provided the safety net no other media outlet is provided, this is not fair.

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: I do believe that COPYRIGHT laws should be adjusted for the times, they are outdated and full of too many holes. This is however a legal question to which is not my forte, I am a money guy/technical guy. I would support an update to these laws to ensure business/artists/musicians rights are enforced. As an ex-media employee(radio) I believe that file sharing without purchasing and remunerating the artist/musician/business is theft. Artists have spent their own money and time to make their art just for some one else to take it without remuneration? We will not meddle in

contracts for the purchase of these arts/music once they have been signed though. There should be protections on both sides of this change to legislation should it be amended, people who purchase the wares of artists need to ensure they are protected as well.

- 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 are proposing an easier and lower tax reform program. A straight tax for those who are in business (of which the self-employed artists are) and lower taxes for all Canadians. Our proposal is 0% tax on income under 15K, 15% tax on income from 15001 to 100K, and 25% above 100001. A straight tax of 10% on business and farms, abolition of Capital Gains Tax and Carbon Pricing. We also are proposing the end of GST (to allow provincial governments to be autonomous and self-regulate their own spending). All self-employed individuals are permitted to opt in to Employment Insurance for benefits, this is already in place from back in 2011 I believe. Artists have always been able to claim their expenses against their income, this will not change, they will be taxed much less on them under our proposed changes to Income Tax.

- 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 role of government is provide the environment for people to succeed without vast intervention (like regulation and financial support), that has been unseen under prior regimes. I am not sure if the Canadian Content rule still applies to media (commonly referred to as Can-Con in the industry, I've been out of the industry for a long time) however, I do believe that focusing on Canadian art/music to ensure it is maintained and thriving is definitely of utmost importance and I still support it. This is my personal belief and not a party one. Without out Bands like The Tragically Hip, Alexis On Fire, Sheepdogs, Barenaked Ladies, Rush... to name a few may not have seen the same success.