

Sask Arts Alliance

1. COVID-19 has highlighted the precarious situation of those without income security. As in other sectors, many artists and cultural workers work on contract on a project-by-project basis as small business entrepreneurs. The COVID-19 federal income programs have provided a lifeline for some and could be a model for the future. Would you support a federal basic income guarantee program?

Through funding for Sask Arts (formerly the Saskatchewan Arts Board) and Creative Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Party government has invested over \$100 million in Saskatchewan arts and cultural organizations since 2013. Funding through these sources, particularly through Sask Arts, support individual artists through granting programs.

In addition to the above dedicated sources of support through the Government of Saskatchewan, lottery funding administered through SaskCulture provides an annual source of funding for arts and cultural organizations. Over the past three years, this has totalled an estimated \$47 million.

2. Opportunities for emerging professionals in the arts are slim, and as in the rest of our society, especially for Indigenous, Black, Artists of Colour and Disability Artists. How will you support and actively work to assist emerging Artists and most especially disenfranchised Artists to develop their careers?

The Saskatchewan Party recognizes culture and the arts as an important part of our objective to enhance quality of life, build pride, and sustain the economic growth of our province.

The Saskatchewan Party is committed to working with the creative industries and associated organizations to enhance and build a stronger creative industries sector. In 2010, the Saskatchewan Party introduced the first provincial cultural policy in more than 25 years. One of the main principles listed within the policy is to promote sustainable development of the arts/culture sector.

Our province was the first to join with Business for the Arts Canada to offer a Saskatchewan artsVest program. Since the program began in 2011-12, government has invested \$1.5 million in artsvest Saskatchewan, allowing Saskatchewan's arts and culture organizations to leverage \$6.3 million in private sector sponsorship. An example of a successful Saskatchewan partnership came from Friends of the Broadway Theatre in Saskatoon. Through a partnership with Affinity Credit Union and BullFrog Power, the historic theatre was able to install a solar-powered energy system on the roof, thereby building the reputation of the corporate partners and the theatre in the community.

In 2012, the Saskatchewan Party government initiated a consultation process that engaged the creative industries, as well as involved businesses and individuals, in developing a strategy to advance their commercial objectives to position them as part of the province's Growth Agenda, to ensure our continued high quality of life and to build an even stronger Saskatchewan.

3. Performing arts venues and organizations (theatres, live music venues, independent movie theatres), have been particularly hard hit by COVID-19. How will you actively work to ensure these venues and organizations do not close forever?

The Saskatchewan Party recognizes the impact that early public health restrictions to combat the spread of COVID-19 had on public gatherings and live events, and the challenge this presented to arts venues and organizations.

As part of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan, restrictions began to be eased in a phased approach (all re-opening measures contain social distancing requirements, restrictions on maximum audience capacity for venues and other requirements depending on the nature of the activity):

- **May 19th: Commercial galleries were allowed to reopen with other retail businesses.**
 - **June 22nd: Children's programming was allowed.**
 - **June 29th:**
 - **Non-profit galleries were allowed to reopen.**
 - **Theatres were allowed to reopen**
 - **July 6th: Performing arts were allowed to resume operation.**
4. The Province's allocation to the arts and creative industries sector has not kept up with inflation. Will you support substantially increasing the province's financial investment in our major arts agencies: SK Arts (formerly the Saskatchewan Arts Board) and Creative Saskatchewan?

The Saskatchewan Party government has invested over \$100 million in Saskatchewan arts and cultural organizations through funding for Sask Arts and Creative Saskatchewan. These funds support individual artists through grant programs.

Lottery funding through SaskCulture provides an annual source of funding for arts and cultural organizations. This has totalled to an estimated \$47 million over the past three years.

5. Given that Saskatchewan has the potential to realize 1500 new full-time jobs in the screen-based production industry, how would you make Saskatchewan screen-based production capable of fully participating and competing for Saskatchewan's share of the rapidly increasing marketplace for global content?

Creative Saskatchewan was created with the mandate to facilitate the expansion of a business environment advantageous to the growth of creative industries and to the growth of new employment, investment, and production opportunities within the creative industries.

The Saskatchewan Party government has provided Creative Saskatchewan with over \$57 million since its creation. Creative Saskatchewan administers fifteen grant programs through the Creative Saskatchewan Investment Fund, including: Feature film and television development and production grants, interactive and digital media, as well as a market and export development grant.

6. Given what you know about our sector, what long term strategies would you champion to support the important role of the arts and creative industries in strengthening our provincial economy and the well-being of Saskatchewan citizens?

Creative Saskatchewan was established with the mandate to facilitate the expansion of a business environment advantageous to the growth of creative industries and to the growth of new employment, investment, and production opportunities within the creative industries. A Saskatchewan Party government will continue to invest in our creative industries and be adaptive in order to foster continued growth within the sector.