

SAA

January 3, 2018

To: Dr. Kathryn Ricketts, President SAA

From: Ken Cheveldayoff, Leadership Candidate for the Saskatchewan Party

Thanks to SAA for the opportunity to respond to these important questions. I recognize and applaud the good work that your organization undertakes and advocates for on behalf of artists and arts organizations.

Q: If you are elected leader of the Saskatchewan Party, what actions will you take to ensure that: the arts sector continues to grow, providing opportunities for artists throughout the province?

Answer:

To ensure a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people, I continue to support our Government's goal of strong arts, culture and heritage sectors by promoting investment in, and providing support to the arts, culture and heritage sectors. (source: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport 2017-18 Plan)

I am proud of the ongoing financial support that our Government has continued to invest in our arts community and to grow a creative economy in the province and to keep the sectors and stakeholders strong and viable by investing in the Saskatchewan Arts Board and Creative Saskatchewan.

In 2017 - 18 the government of Saskatchewan has invested close to \$14M in Saskatchewan's creative artists and arts organizations, albeit with modest reductions, in order to ensure that government investment remains focused on providing effective and efficient core programs and services:

- \$6.6M to Saskatchewan Arts Board - to keep our arts community strong, to enrich communities through the arts and to invest in the arts, artists, and arts organizations; and,
- \$7.3M to Creative Saskatchewan - investing to help grow a creative economy to bring our province's creative talent and cultural products to market including visual arts and craft, publishing, music and sound recording, live performing arts, screen - based media, and digital media. Creative Saskatchewan facilitates the expansion of a business environment advantageous to the growth of the creative industries in Saskatchewan growing new employment, investment, and production opportunities in the province.

Q: If you are elected leader of the Saskatchewan Party, what actions will you take to ensure that: all children in Saskatchewan have access to excellent arts education

Answer:

- In meeting the challenges of growth, I support the Government's Ministry of Education goal of improving graduation rates by 2020 and to meet that target, include the renewal of curricula for high school, including grades 10-12 social sciences, **arts education**, practical and applied arts and physical education in French and English. (source: Ministry of Education 2017-18 Plan).
- High Speed internet has become an essential service from an economic, educational, and quality of life-perspective in Canada. To encourage growth, renewal and service, my plan is to continue to improve access to SaskTel high speed internet with higher speeds (by 225% over five years) and fewer restrictions. This could result in increased opportunities, and greater access to arts education by more students in Saskatchewan.