



**Saskatchewan  
Arts Alliance**

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Dear <Party Leader>,

The Saskatchewan Arts Alliance (SAA) is a non-partisan coalition of Saskatchewan arts and creative industry organizations. On behalf of its members, the SAA has prepared the following questionnaire that we respectfully ask you to complete [and return to us](#). We would like to know about your party's position and the measures you plan to establish to support recovery of the arts and creative industries sector. Your answers will be published in our Bulletin and on social media. **Please respond by noon October 21<sup>st</sup> so that your party's position can be circulated.**

### **Background Information**

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on the serious issues our sector faces. It was one of the sectors hardest hit by the pandemic and likely will be one of the last to recover<sup>i</sup>. Our sector closed its doors to help our Public Health Authority's efforts to mitigate the impact of the crisis. We quickly shifted to offering our artworks, performances and festivals online to an eager and appreciative public – with no expectations of financial returns.

This is a precarious time for the arts and creative industries. We need your help. Survival is on the minds of everyone in our sector, a sector that because it has been operating at bare-bones for years, has no cushion to manage this crisis.

### ***What does this have to do with your party? A lot!***

The arts and creative industries add value to our province in many ways. The sector builds stronger and happier communities, gives us a sense of belonging and civic pride, increases innovative thinking in our students, improves mental health, and contributes to the province's GDP. The sector is an important part of the solution to building a strong province.

### **Questionnaire**

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 your party support a federal basic income guarantee program?<sup>ii</sup>
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. What will your party do to assist emerging Artists and most especially disenfranchised Artists to develop their careers?
3. Performing arts venues and organizations (theatres, live music venues, independent movie theatres), have been particularly hard hit by COVID-19. What plans does your party have **now** to ensure these venues and organizations do not close forever?

4. The Province's allocation to the arts and creative industries sector has not kept up with inflation. Will your party commit to substantially increasing its financial investment in our major arts agencies: SK Arts (formerly the Saskatchewan Arts Board) and Creative Saskatchewan?
5. Given that Saskatchewan has the potential to realize 1500 new full-time jobs in the screen-based production industry, how would your party make Saskatchewan screen-based production capable of fully participating and competing for Saskatchewan's share of the rapidly increasing marketplace for global content?<sup>iii</sup>
6. Given what you know about our sector, what are your long term strategies to support the important role of the arts and creative industries in strengthening our provincial economy and the well-being of Saskatchewan citizens?

We welcome any other comments you may have. **Please return the Questionnaire by noon October 21<sup>st</sup> to [info@artsalliance.sk.ca](mailto:info@artsalliance.sk.ca).**

Warm regards,



Jaime Boldt  
SAA President

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<sup>i</sup> The Sask. Arts Alliance report "COVID-19 Impact Survey: Cultural Organizations" found that 94% of respondents reported closure, cancelled or deferred events and services in April 2020. Over 60% of the 283 respondents to the SAA "COVID-19 Impact Survey of Artists and Cultural Workers in Saskatchewan" reported being unable to continue on any paid or funded creative work that is unaffected by COVID-19 restrictions.

[I Lost My Gig Canada](https://ilostmygig.ca), reported that the economic impacts between March 20 and August 15, 2020 in lost or at-risk income for individuals was \$20.7 million with 1,037 respondents reporting. I Lost My Gig Canada, accessed October 13, 2020, <https://ilostmygig.ca>

<sup>ii</sup> Basic Income Canada Network: FAQs "How much will it cost?" accessed October 13, 2020, <https://www.basicincomecanada.org/faq>

<sup>iii</sup> Things have changed and it's time to take another look at the screen-based production industry. The streaming giants like Netflix and Disney are investing in screen-based content and soundstage production studios all over the world. Canada has achieved a film/tv industry almost worth \$10 billion and the communities and businesses of Saskatchewan deserve their fair share compared to our neighbouring provinces. In Saskatchewan, there is the immediate ability to take advantage of \$100 million in "shovel-ready" screen-based production that would provide over 1500 new, full-time equivalent jobs in the next 3-4 years with dozens of communities and suppliers all over the province reaping the economic benefits.