House of Commons
Chambre des communes
Canada

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – Pre-budget Consultations 2013

This brief is submitted by:

(•) **an organization** **Organization name:** Fédération culturelle canadienne-française (FCCF)

or

( ) **an individual** **Name:** _____

Topic: Arts and culture

*Recommendation 1: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

That the Government of Canada maintain its support for arts and culture by renewing its investment in the following Department of Canadian Heritage programs: the Canada Arts Presentation Fund (CAPF), the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF) and the Canada Arts Training Fund (CATF), and that it index the funds for these programs annually to the cost of living.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

other: please provide your estimated amount $1,582,215 annually

Immediately

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

According to a 2008 Conference Board of Canada study, the arts and culture sector injects $46 billion directly into Canada's gross domestic product and generates roughly $25 billion in taxes for all levels of government (i.e., more than three times the $7.9 billion invested). Government investment in arts and culture generates three times more in taxes than it would cost to fund artistic and cultural initiatives. According to the 2013-2014 Main Estimates, total expenditure for these three programs is $79,110,795. With indexing estimated at 2%, this initiative would cost approximately $1,582,215.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

In 2011-2012, 57 francophone communities received financial assistance from the Canada Arts Presentation Fund (CAPF) to stage performing arts productions, which were enjoyed by thousands of francophones and francophiles. Over the last three years, French-language artistic and cultural venues in Moncton, Ottawa, Hearst, Saskatoon, Saint-Boniface and Edmonton received significant amounts of assistance from the CAPF. All Canadians benefit from having a country with a vibrant creative economy and jobs that are produced through this investment. These programs promote the sustainable development of communities.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Artists and artistic and cultural organizations need suitable spaces where they can create, produce and present artistic works. Canadians deserve places where they can fully appreciate these endeavours. Maintaining investment by the CAPF--which opens up high-quality cultural experiences to Canadians--would guarantee the vitality of these cultural venues. This kind of support creates jobs for thousands of Canadians who invest in their communities.

Topic: Arts and culture

Recommendation 2: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

That the Government of Canada maintain its support for federal cultural organizations that are essential for the arts and culture in Canada to thrive (National Arts Centre, Société Radio-Canada/Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Telefilm Canada, National Film Board, etc.).

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

other: please provide your estimated amount $0

Immediately

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

The recommendation would not involve any new spending.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

All Canadians would benefit from this initiative, and especially artists, cultural workers, artistic and cultural organizations and the francophone and francophile public. The government has to seize the opportunity to increase the return on its investment by supporting these agencies and Crown corporations. These entities are fully capable of developing and carrying new initiatives. They are also major employers in the regions and promote the artistic, cultural and linguistic vitality of francophone communities in Canada.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

The artistic products presented by cultural agencies benefit all Canadians because they enhance their quality of life. These agencies create jobs and are key partners for artists and artistic and cultural organizations "in the trenches" across Canada. They keep in close and regular contact with regional and community players by consulting with them, such that they understand their specific issues. They operate with management frameworks that promote impeccable transparency and accountability.

Topic: Arts and culture

Recommendation 3: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

That the Government of Canada increase the annual parliamentary appropriation for the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) by 10% to raise the CCA's annual budget to $300 million in the long run.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

other: please provide your estimated amount $18 million

Immediately

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Government investment in arts and culture generates three times more in taxes than it would cost to fund artistic and cultural initiatives. Investing in the arts is a good way to generate additional revenue.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

All Canadians benefit from having a country with a creative, vibrant and dynamic economy. However, artists and artistic organizations would benefit especially from this investment. In our opinion, the increased investment would also make it possible to support more artists and organizations, possibly in communities where assistance was previously unavailable.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Increased investment through the CCA would mean that Canada's cultural heart--its artists and artistic organizations--would receive support in pursuit of a shared public goal: to explore and express what defines us as Canadians. This investment would also help ensure that Canadians have better access to artistic productions in every region in Canada. Lastly, this government funding would maintain thousands of jobs in artistic and cultural organizations.

Please use this page if you wish to provide more explanation about your recommendation(s).

Arts and culture, artists and cultural workers contribute greatly to building a better world, from an economic, human and social perspective. Artists are also instrumental in forging our uniquely Canadian and unifying identity that makes this country such a good place to live. For the arts and culture to continue generating jobs, improving our quality of life and bringing us closer together, the federal government has to invest in people working on the frontlines of innovation and creativity in Canada--artists and artistic organizations. The government also has to ensure that Canadians from coast to coast have access to a range of artistic works and contemporary cultural experiences and products that reflect our cultural diversity and make Canada a place to live like no other.

Government investment in arts and culture benefit the entire country. According to Statistics Canada, the arts and culture sector is a major employer, accounting for an estimated 610,000 workers in 2003, 140,000 of whom were artists. The sector includes for-profit creative and cultural industries, non-profit artistic organizations and independent contractors. It makes up 3.9% of the total workforce. It accounts for twice as many jobs as the forestry (300,000) and Canadian banking (257,000) sectors.

In the Canadian francophonie, government investment creates jobs in arts and culture that contribute to the linguistic, economic and social vitality of more than 250 communities. Thanks to this investment, the associative sector--a major employer in the Canadian francophonie and a vital service delivery partner--can build and retain a specialized workforce and serve the public. Jobs in the arts and culture sector in our communities enable francophones to work in French in regions where it is sometimes difficult to find employment that allows them to do so. These jobs also contribute to ongoing cultural development and promote linguistic duality across the country. This linguistic duality is one of the fundamentals of a distinctive national identity.

Given the size of the country's cultural workforce, it would be a strategic move for the government--which wants to create lasting jobs--to continue making arts and culture a priority in its Economic Action Plan. Lastly, funding for arts and culture generates very good returns: three times the initial investment.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided