



Dear Ms. Hope,

Thank you for contacting Today's BC Liberals with issues important to your organization. On behalf of all of our candidates, please accept the following.

The cultural sector is an important part of British Columbia's economy. The BC Liberal government and its independent creative agencies continue to invest in B.C.'s creative economy by supporting arts and culture, film, television, music, publishing, and the interactive and digital media industries.

Working closely with the sector, we are promoting the value of creativity, encouraging cooperation, and driving innovation, productivity and entrepreneurship. Growing B.C.'s creative economy is attracting new investment and creating new jobs for British Columbians. The province benefited from 81,385 creative economy jobs in 2014, representing 3.5% of total jobs in B.C. Today's BC Liberals are committed to supporting the creative sector to grow that number.

Recognizing the importance of arts and culture in the overall economy and quality of life in BC, last year our government launched a provincial strategy to help grow this thriving sector.

The three-year Creative Economy Strategy demonstrates our commitment to connect in a new way with people who work in the arts and culture sector to help enrich the lives of British Columbians. It recognizes the importance of arts and culture in the overall economy.

And we are seeing results:

- \$60 million in provincial funding for artists and arts and culture organizations in 2017-18.
- \$1.5 million over three years for collaborative arts spaces, promoting artistic creation and audience accessibility by increasing shared resources.
- Providing \$250,000 per year for three years to raise the international presence of B.C. artists.
- \$300,000 over two years in artsVest B.C., a matching incentive program designed to spark new business sponsorship.
- \$15 million for the BC Music Fund.
- Competitive tax credits for film, television and interactive digital media.
- About \$720,000 in funding and \$3.2 million in tax credits for B.C.'s book publishing industry
- \$1.75 million in provincial funding for scholarships and job experience in the cultural sector.
- Ongoing support for the province's world-class digital media industry, generating \$3 billion annually.

Today's BC Liberals support for the province's arts and culture community has exceeded half a billion dollars – more than any other government in BC's history. We have provided almost \$283 million for the BC Arts Council since we became government. This year alone, we'll provide \$60 million in funding for arts and cultural organizations as well as for individual artists. Going forward, Today's BC Liberals

will provide an additional \$5 million each year to the Community Gaming Grant program, bringing the annual total to \$140 million to support not-for-profit organizations.

For the book publishing sector, we are extending the refundable income tax credit for an additional two years to 2019. The extension of the credit continues Today's BC Liberals' support to the approximately 30 book publishers in British Columbia. In 2015-16, the total amount of credits assessed was \$2.9 million. Since the tax credit was introduced in 2003, \$26.8 million in credits for B.C. book publishers have been assessed.

Our government has also invested \$15 million in the BC Music Fund to support the growth of B.C.'s diverse music industry and we are committed to providing an additional \$15 million, if re-elected.

Today's BC Liberals have supported four successful artsVest B.C. program cycles between 2012 and 2016. Each provincially funded dollar is matched by federal funding, generating an average of \$3.75 with additional business sponsorships that is then added into BC's economy. Through leveraging, the provincial outlay from 2012-2015 has generated more than \$1.1 million or a 475% rate of return on investment.

To support post-secondary training in B.C.'s creative sector, the BC Liberal government provided \$101.65 million towards construction of the new home for Emily Carr University of Art + Design. It has outgrown the Granville Island campus due to increased student demand and the need to house current and emerging program areas. The new campus at Great Northern Way will accommodate 1,800 students and provide modern, spacious facilities that will attract national and international students. The new facility will be designed to achieve LEED Gold Certification and will comply with the Wood First Act.

Today's BC Liberals recognize the importance of arts and culture to the overall economy and quality of life in our province. We know the importance of a strong and diversified economy and believe that the creative sector plays a key role. We are striving to support artists and cultural workers to do what they do best – create new work, inspire audiences, and spur growth.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Today's BC Liberals