



ALBERTA

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-North West

May 9, 2011

AR17112

Mr. Daniel Cournoyer, Chair
Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton
PO Box 1193
Edmonton, AB T5J 3L1

Dear Mr. Cournoyer:

Thank you for your letter of April 15, 2011, providing an overview of the Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton's campaign to support arts funding. On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to respond.

The Government of Alberta understands the value of a culturally rich and vibrant province and the impact this has on the lives of all Albertans. That is why Alberta's cultural policy, *The Spirit of Alberta*, was created. We value the opportunity to enhance our quality of life by enjoying art, music, theatre, dance, crafts, literature, our heritage, sporting events, recreational pursuits, the outdoors, language, and food. For more information on Alberta's cultural policy, please visit www.culture.alberta.ca/culturalpolicy.

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) plays a significant role in encouraging, supporting and funding Alberta's artists and arts organizations in their critical contributions to our quality of life and economy. Each year, the AFA distributes roughly 1,400 grants, supporting arts and culture organizations and emerging and professional individual artists throughout our province. More information on the work of the AFA can be found at www.affta.ab.ca.

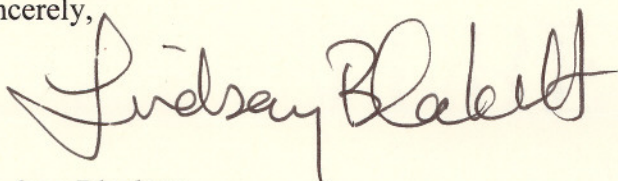
While the AFA did receive a funding reduction in 2010, it came in the larger context of the significant challenges of the economic climate. Even with this reduction, AFA funding has increased from \$18.9 million in 2004-05 to \$29.2 million in 2010-11. In addition, in 2010-11, the AFA was able to identify efficiencies in order to return approximately 5 per cent back to arts stakeholders that received an operating grant, in order to minimize the impact of their original grant reductions for 2010-11. Funding for the AFA remained steady in 2011-12 with a budget of nearly \$28 million (support for the Cultural Industries has been moved from the AFA to the Alberta Multimedia Development Fund, accounting for the difference in the budget number). Moving forward, the Government of Alberta remains committed to support the arts and artists as part of a strong and vibrant Alberta.

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Mr. Daniel Cournoyer
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Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Blackett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lindsay Blackett
Minister of Culture and Community Spirit
MLA, Calgary-North West

cc: Honourable Ed Stelmach, Premier
All Government MLAs