

May 27, 2011

Hon. Lindsay Blackett
Minister of Culture and Community Spirit
MLA, Calgary-North West
107 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Blackett:

Thanks very much for responding, on behalf of the Government of Alberta, to our letter describing our “I Love Alberta Art” campaign. There is no doubt that we all want what’s best for Alberta and its vibrant arts sector.

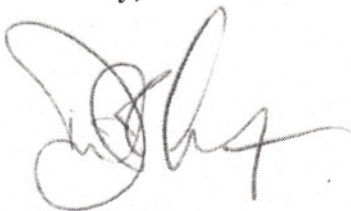
Arts organizations throughout our province were relieved there were no further cuts to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) in 2011-2012 . We were pleased, as well, to see a five per cent return in funding from the 16 per cent cut experienced last year. We look forward to the re-establishment of the remaining 11 per cent in the near future.

As you know, although funds that channel to Alberta’s arts organizations represent only a tiny portion of the province’s overall budget, these funds comprise a significant proportion of the average Albertan arts organization budget. Consequently a funding cut of any size to one of our arts organizations can have a dire impact on its operation.

Considering the AFA’s own report – *The Economic Impact of the Arts in Alberta* (p. 5.) – tells us that every dollar invested in Alberta’s arts sector results in a \$12 return to our province’s economy, such cuts hurt every Albertan. None of us want to see that happen.

We are all very motivated to work with you and Alberta’s government to ensure our province’s arts establishment continues to grow as a vibrant, thriving and contributing sector of Alberta’s economy and culture. Please feel free to contact me at any time to set up a meeting with our committee. We would welcome an opportunity to further discuss these and related issues at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Daniel Cournoyer
Chair, Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton

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