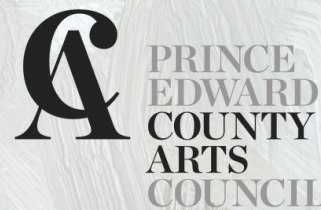


Advocating for the Arts in the Bay of Quinte



Arts and culture workers are major drivers of economic development and community well-being in Ontario, and in the Bay of Quinte region. With economists predicting up to a 5-year recovery period for the hard-hit arts sector, arts and culture workers need increased government support to thrive during and beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the lead-up to this spring's provincial election, County Arts has been working to ensure that the needs and perspectives of the local arts sector and arts and culture workers are on the radar of Bay of Quinte candidates.



We developed and shared a Backgrounder to provide provincial and local context/statistics and sources, and to outline the benefits of - and what's needed to support - a thriving arts sector in the Bay of Quinte region and beyond.



We conducted a survey to gather local perspectives on issues relating to the arts and arts & culture workers (see results on next page). Among the 58 respondents, 58% were artists/arts educators, and 17% were owners or employees of an arts organization/business located in the Bay of Quinte. 100% of respondents were residents of Prince Edward County, though it was open to all in the electoral district. The questions were formulated based on responses to past County Arts Artist Surveys and the recent provincial advocacy efforts by the Alliance of Arts Councils of Ontario.



We shared survey results with and posed relevant questions to all Bay of Quinte candidates. We are now sharing their responses to help residents make an informed decision on election day (see pages 3-6). Please note that the Green Party and New Blue candidates did not respond by the given deadline.



Using survey results, we formulated arts sector-related questions for inclusion in interviews and a Candidates Forum to be aired on 99.3 County FM.

Results - Spring 2022 Advocacy Survey

1. Funding to the Ontario Arts Council

We (County Arts) see increasing Ontario Arts Council (OAC) funding as the most effective and equitable way to increase financial stability for Ontario's arts & culture workers. (See our [Backgrounder](#) for more information and our rationale). OAC's budget is currently at 2009 levels, which does not allow for existing funding to keep pace with inflation, nor allow sufficient space to welcome new applicants to OAC grant programs.

YES - 98% (56)
NO - 2% (1)

Do you agree with the following statement? "Our local MPP should vote in favour of a budgetary increase to the Ontario Arts Council."

2. Basic Income Guarantee

Over 3,000 artists, including 30+ arts organizations and unions representing 75,000+ members, have signed a public letter calling for a Basic Income Guarantee in Canada. You can learn more about their proposed benefits and demands [here](#).

YES - 89% (51)
NO - 11% (6)

Do you agree with the following statement? "Our local MPP should support provincial, or joint provincial-federal, efforts, to implement a Basic Income Guarantee model."

3. Top concerns for arts & culture workers and businesses

For artists / arts businesses only - Below is a list of some of the obstacles noted by arts, entertainment and recreation organizations and businesses in a recent federal survey. Please rank them in terms of their importance to your artistic practice/business/organization:

Income stability - Maintaining sufficient cash flow / Managing debt / Attracting new or returning customers / Cost of living



RANKED # 1
TOP CONCERN FOR 74% (31)

Increased cost of inputs and services - Costs of supplies, insurance, implementing public health protocols such as PPE, distancing, etc.)



RANKED #2
TOP CONCERN FOR 19% (8)

Workforce - Recruiting and retaining employees / Housing / Transportation



RANKED #3
TOP CONCERN FOR 7% (3)



Here's what your 2022 provincial candidates have to say about supporting the arts and arts & culture workers

1

98% of respondents in our recent survey believe that our MPP should vote in favour of a budgetary increase to the Ontario Arts Council. If elected, would you vote in favour of such an increase?



Emilie Leneveu (Liberal) - As a former marketing manager for a theatre festival in Kingston Ontario, I am very passionate about funding for the arts sector. Yes, I would support an increase in funding to OAC.



Alison Kelly (NDP) - Yes. The ONDP has in its platform a commitment to:

- Increase funding to the Ontario Arts Council by supporting new and experienced Ontario artists by restoring and providing additional funding to the grant program.
- Create Provincial Arts Strategy that centres artists and supports arts, culture, and heritage community-based institutions committed to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, assessing needs through measurable outcome.

Learn more on page 41 of our [Platform](#).



Todd Smith (PC) - In addition to the \$60 million in general grants revenue the Ontario government provides the Ontario Arts Council annually, the government did provide the OAC an additional \$25 million in 2020-2021 to support sector recovery. Not-for-profit arts organizations are also eligible for funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Resilient Communities Fund and Community Building Fund. Some arts organizations were also eligible for the ongoing funding through Reconnect Ontario for festivals and events. Through the Tourism Economic Development and Recovery Fund, Ontario is also providing funding to promote new tourism products and investment, some of which may be arts-related (cont.)

(cont...) Some creators also benefit through over \$800 million in annual supports through Ontario Creates cultural media tax credits. The government has modernized the Ontario Book Publishing Tax credit to allow digital publishers and small-run publishers to qualify. It has also committed to review regional bonuses under the Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit and the eligibility of location fees for the Ontario Production Services Tax Credit to encourage more production in the Province. Employees working from home or in hybrid work arrangements are also now eligible for the Ontario Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit.

Ontario's current medium-term economic outlook in the 2022 budget projects sustained revenue growth through 2024-2025. If the economy rebounds as anticipated, the government would be in a position to consider increased program spending through the Ontario Arts Council. I would be receptive to the request. Arts businesses are key drivers for economic growth in our communities.

2

89% of respondents in our recent survey believe that our local MPP should support provincial, or joint provincial-federal efforts, to implement a Basic Income Guarantee model. If elected, would you support such efforts?



Todd Smith (PC) - Keeping costs down, supporting workers, and rebuilding Ontario's economy are key planks in our election campaign. The Ontario Progressive Conservatives would consider any measure to promote affordability for Ontario residents. A guaranteed basic income program would need to be both affordable and sustainable and would likely require partnership from both levels of government. While in government, we have shown a willingness to put partisan politics aside and negotiate fruitful agreements with the federal government, such as the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, the Safe Restart Agreement, and the recent child care deal.



Alison Kelly (NDP) - Yes. The ONDP will re-start the basic income pilot prematurely cancelled by Doug Ford and continue to weigh innovative approaches to social support. Learn more [here](#).



Emilie Leneveu (Liberal) - I am proud of the Ontario Liberal Plan to reinstate a Universal Basic Income Pilot Program.

3

The primary obstacle facing artists and arts business survey respondents was Income Stability, with 74% of respondents ranking this as their number one concern. If elected, what measures would you take to address these obstacles and help support artists and arts organizations through the pandemic recovery process and beyond?



Alison Kelly (NDP) - An Ontario NDP government has a plan to ensure our arts, culture, heritage, and media industries get back on track and thrive now and into the future, with restored funding and direct supports for organizations and workers. Such supports include:

- Restore the Indigenous Culture Fund:
- Film and TV tax credits:
- Improve the Ontario Computer Animation and Special Effects Tax Credit:
- Increase festival funding
- Increase funding for the Community Museum Operating Grant
- Increase provincial funding for brick-and-mortar libraries and digital library services
- Prioritize Ontario's authors and publishers in school curricula



Emilie Leneveu (Liberal) - We'll introduce legislation to bring back a demonstration of basic income that the Ford Conservatives cancelled to evaluate the life-changing impacts of giving people consistent, reliable financial support.

We'll restore funding, grants and donation matching for the arts, music and culture – fully implementing Ontario's Culture Strategy. We'll reintroduce the \$5 million Indigenous Culture Fund that the Ford Conservatives scrapped in 2019 and bring back the Ontario Sports and Recreation Communities Fund to help people live healthy, active lives.

We'll keep filmed-in-Ontario productions strong with stable and competitive film and TV tax support – and we'll reform the Ontario Arts Council and Ontario Trillium Foundation boards, appointing people with the skills and experience to uplift the arts and culture sector.



Todd Smith (PC) - Through the pandemic, the Ontario government provided a suite of cash flow supports for business – such as the ability to defer payment on most provincial taxes, support grants to offset lost income, energy and property tax rebates – and programs like Digital Main Street that offered support to enhance e-commerce.

Affordability remains a priority for the Ontario PCs. We will continue to work to reduce red tape for businesses. The Low-Income Workers Tax Credit will reduce provincial taxes for those making \$50,000 or less. The government is committed to lowering gas taxes by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre for six months and it has scrapped licence plate fees. The most extensive childcare deal of any Province in Canada will reduce childcare fees in half by the end of this year.

The government will continue to reduce red tape to encourage the creation of rental and market housing to affect supply and lower housing costs. Ontario energy users will also benefit from the cancelling of costly and unnecessary contracts and the continued Ontario Electricity Rebate. Our government would also create a food security and supply chain stability strategy to support local producers and lower food costs.

Artists may also benefit from a provision in the Working for Workers Act, 2021, which banned the use of non-compete agreements, providing freelancers and contract employers a broader opportunity to make a living.