

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. In the lead-up to the 2022 provincial election, County Arts (the Prince Edward County Arts Council) carried out a number of initiatives, including a resident and candidate survey, to ensure that the needs and perspectives of the local arts sector and arts and culture workers were on the radar of Bay of Quinte candidates. See our [2022 Election Package](#) for more information.

In the lead-up to the September 2024 provincial by-election, we asked all Bay of Quinte candidates to respond to the same questions we posed 2022 candidates, and are sharing their answers here to help voters make an informed decision at the polls. Please note that candidates from the following parties did not respond by the deadline: PC, New Blue, Libertarian.

1

98% of respondents in our 2022 resident survey believed that our local MPP should vote in support of a budgetary increase to the Ontario Arts Council. If elected, would you vote in favour of such an increase?



Amanda Robertson (NDP) - The Ontario New Democrats recognize the importance of the arts and culture sector, not just for economic reasons but for community development.

- We'll create a Provincial Arts Strategy that centres artists and supports arts, culture, and heritage community-based institutions.
- Increase funding to the Ontario Arts Council: We'll support new and experienced Ontario artists by restoring and providing additional funding to the grant program.
- Restore the Indigenous Culture Fund: We'll bring back this vital program, which supports First Nations, Inuit and Métis community-based and cultural projects, creates jobs for Indigenous people.



Lori Borthwick (Green Party) - Yes, Greens believe that a stronger arts and culture sector makes for a stronger Ontario. We support increased investments in both the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



John Turmel (Independent) - All three questions deal with shortage of funding. I propose to solve all that by providing all with interest-free Bank of Canada credit cards ([explanation here](#)).



Sean Kelly (Liberal) - Yes, absolutely! I will vote in favor of increasing the Ontario Arts Council's budget.

2

89% of respondents in our 2022 resident survey believed 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?



John Turmel (Independent) - All three questions deal with shortage of funding. I propose to solve all that by providing all with interest-free Bank of Canada credit cards ([explanation here](#)).



Lori Borthwick (Green Party) - Greens support a basic income model for Canada. Our most recent election platform called for the phasing in of a basic income, with the first step being to double Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works rates.



Sean Kelly (Liberal) - Yes, if elected as an MPP, I'll support bringing back the universal basic income pilot program as launched by the previous Ontario Liberal government.



Amanda Robertson (NDP) - The ONDP has a commitment to lifting people out of poverty. We will establish a system that raises people out of poverty no later than the end of our first term. We'll immediately begin to work with all stakeholders on delivering an evidence-based approach to setting rates at a level that recognizes the real costs of essentials like food and rent. An ONDP government would restart the basic income pilot prematurely canceled by Doug Ford and continue to weigh innovative approaches to social support.

3

The primary obstacle facing artists and arts business respondents in our 2022 resident survey 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?



Sean Kelly (Liberal) - I will advocate for investing in the promotion of Ontario's arts and culture sector both domestically and internationally. I will support creating new comfortable and affordable creative spaces for artists including arts galleries to host more exhibitions. I will also champion corporate sponsorships and partnerships for arts and culture organizations. I will support grants, tax credits, and other incentives to encourage purchasing and promoting creative artwork crafted by Ontario's arts and culture sector.



Amanda Robertson (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 support for organizations and workers.

Some of our commitments to support Arts and Cultural organizations with adequate funding include:

- Restore the Indigenous Culture Fund
- Film and TV tax credits to support our local talented creators
- 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 curriculum.
- Improve the Ontario Computer Animation and Special Effects Tax Credit



John Turmel (Independent) - All three questions deal with shortage of funding. I propose to solve all that by providing all with interest-free Bank of Canada credit cards ([explanation here](#)).



Lori Borthwick (Green Party) - Ontario Greens have a plan to support the long-term stability of the arts and culture sector by:

- Decreasing land taxes for buildings where there are below market rent opportunities for creative and social enterprises
- Affirming the arms-length operations of the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Trillium Foundation and increasing investment in both
- Reinstating support for the Indigenous Culture Fund, to encourage artists of Indigenous backgrounds

These planned supports for artists would work in combination with government support programs that aim to end poverty and provide Ontarians with economic security. These include:

- Phasing in a basic income as outlined above
- Addressing inequalities in education, healthcare and housing to support racialized, LGBTQ+, disabled and other marginalized people
- Addressing the housing crisis by building more affordable housing, ending homelessness, protecting renters, and making homeownership more accessible

We believe that implementing these changes would provide all Ontarians with adequate economic support to ensure that they can pursue careers in the arts without sacrificing economic stability.