

Petition in Support of the Arts

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Legislature Assembled: The petition of the undersigned, citizens of the Province of British Columbia, states that:

- *The arts are a fundamental aspect of life; they are an expression of human spirit and of human creativity and are a tool for understanding ourselves and our society. They are, like education, health and social security, a universal good that ought to be available to all.*
- *The arts result in healthier, more economically viable, and more livable communities.*
- *Every \$1.00 of provincial investment in arts and cultural organizations returns between \$1.05 and \$1.36 directly to provincial treasuries through tax revenues. (“Socio-Economic Impacts of Arts and Cultural Organizations in BC,” G.S. Sandhu and Associates report prepared for Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Arts, BC, Dec. 2006)*
- *BC has the highest per capita number of cultural workers and one of the lowest levels of arts funding in Canada.*
- *In 1999 the BC government agreed that 33% of net gaming revenue should go to non-profit groups, and over the past 6 years only 21% has been allocated.*

Your petitioners respectfully request that the Honourable House: Immediately:

- *Reverse the cuts to all arts funding, as recommended by the Finance Committee.*
- *Restore funding to the BC Arts Council at the 2008-09 levels, with an arms-length relationship with the province with funding through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, & the Arts.*
- *Restore gaming funding to its charitable purpose and increase to its promised level.*
- *Restore gaming grants to the 2008-09 levels.*

In 2011-2012

- *Invest in the arts on a level that is at parity with the average of Canadian provinces.*

Ongoing, beginning in 2012-2013

- *Invest in the arts at a level that reflects the fact that BC has the highest per capita number of cultural workers and that the arts are a fundamental aspect of life in this province, both in terms of their inherent benefits to citizens and the economic benefits of a vibrant arts culture/sector.*

Dated 26th day of November, 2009.

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Address- # Street or PO & City/Town</i>	<i>Riding</i>	<i>Email (optional)</i>
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Please return to: Arts Petition BC: 1813 B Crescent Rd. Victoria, BC. V8S 2G7 asap, for Dec 15, Jan 15 and Feb 8th report-outs to media and government. Thanks. Info: artspetitionbc@gmail.com