

Ref: 137849

Ms. Jennifer Dorner
National Director
Independent Media Arts Alliance

Email: Dir@IMAA.ca

cc: MooreJ@parl.gc.ca
SG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Dorner:

Thank you for your email of December 17, 2010, regarding your support for the Province of British Columbia's (Province) decision to restore funding to the British Columbia Arts Council (BCAC). Your support is very much appreciated, and you may be interested to know that, subsequent to your email, the Province has provided BCAC with an additional \$750,000 to support its Strategic Plan.

The Province recognizes the critically important role that arts and culture plays in the lives of British Columbians and is committed to the long-term health of the arts and culture sector. During these tough economic times, we continue to make the arts a priority and invest in the creative sector. Even in the midst of a recession, the Province is providing over \$30 million directly to artists and art organizations in 2010/11, including:

- *\$10 million a year over three years to enhance opportunities in the arts through the new 2010 Sports and Arts Legacy (Legacy);
- *Over \$16 million in grants funding through BCAC (\$7.75 million from the Legacy);
- *\$1.5 million in interest earned on the \$170 million BC Arts and Culture Endowment fund; and,
- *\$11.5 million in gaming grants to arts and culture groups for youth, fairs, festivals, museums, and groups with three-year gaming grant commitments throughout British Columbia.

As a person with a strong background in the arts, I am proud of the Province's track record. We have provided unprecedented support to the arts and culture community in this province, totalling more than \$500 million since 2001. This includes direct funding to artists and groups, as well as long-term support for the arts through major endowment funds, continued funding to major institutions such as the Royal British Columbia Museum, and funding for several significant arts and culture projects including the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, the 2009 Juno Awards and the 2009 Canadian Country Music

Awards.

I believe through our support of programs such as the 2010 Sports and Arts Legacy, and with guidance and strategic direction provided by organizations such as the BC Arts Council, the Province has made an important impact on the arts in British Columbia. I look forward to working with artists, arts organizations, members of the creative sector and the public at large to ensure that our arts and culture community continues to thrive and flourish.

As the issue of gaming grants falls under the mandate of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your email to my colleague, Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister, for his review and consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues at the Independent Media Arts Alliance for the great work you do in promoting the interests of Canada's vibrant media arts community. Your work is very much appreciated.

Thank you again for writing to convey your support.

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

Stephanie Cadieux
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development