



September 23rd, 2009

Honourable Kevin Krueger
Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts
Room 301
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Honourable Kevin Krueger,

I am responding on behalf of the Independent Media Arts Alliance (IMAA) to your email sent September 17th 2009 addressing your government's position relative to the mandate of the British Columbia Arts Council (BCAC). Your intention to reassure the community by stating that your "government has no plan to abolish or change the mandate of the BCAC in any way" fails to address the true concerns of the cultural community in BC and across Canada. Cutting the BCAC's funding by as much as 89% over the coming years would absolutely impede the BCAC from fulfilling its mandate. It is distressing to learn that your government, even now, fails to understand the crisis faced by the cultural community in your province.

The IMAA wishes to reiterate its alarm at the impending cutbacks to arts and culture funding in the Province of British Columbia. In an era where the creativity and the contributions of the cultural industry are widely recognized as key to long-term economic development, these proposed funding reductions, which will drastically impact the operating budgets of many long-established arts organizations, make a mockery of any purported support by the government of British Columbia for its artists, creators and innovative cultural producers.

Governments should not attempt to pit their citizens against each other by invoking important social policy needs as a reason to disinvest in arts and culture. What is required is intelligent, long-term leadership for the growth and development of social infrastructure and creative, dynamic and inclusive communities. We expect that the Government of British Columbia will take appropriate action in response to the unanimous outrage of artists and cultural organizations in British Columbia and across the country and immediately reverse these proposed funding reductions to the British Columbia Arts Council.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dorner, National Director

The IMAA represents over 80 independent film, video, and new media production, distribution, and exhibition organizations in all parts of Canada and serves over 12,000 independent media artists and cultural workers.

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