



**Independent
Media Arts Alliance**
**Alliance des arts
médiatiques indépendants**

November 19, 2009

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier
Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC
V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Campbell,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Independent Media Arts Alliance, a national association representing over 80 non-profit media arts organizations serving over 12,000 artists and cultural workers across Canada. Eleven important British Columbian arts organizations are members of our Alliance.

It is with cautious optimism that we hear of the release of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia's Select Standing Committee on Finance *Report on the Budget 2010 Consultations*. In particular, we are particularly encouraged to read on page 27 of the *Report*, that:

[t]he Finance Committee recommends that the provincial government [m]ake funding of the arts a high priority in the 2010/11 budget by returning to overall actual funding levels of 2008/09.

We are impressed and encouraged that members of the Committee have responded to the united voice of the cultural community in this regard, and urge you to act positively on this recommendation by reversing cuts to arts funding announced earlier this year by your government.

As documented in the *Report*, restoration of direct public funding to the British Columbia Arts Council and to arts organizations in British Columbia will sustain the excellence and long-term viability of the arts and culture sector. We encourage you to demonstrate your government's commitment to—and respect for—the central social contributions made by your province's artists, creators and cultural workers. Their sector affects not only the lives of British Columbians, but Canadian society as a whole.

From a perspective across the country, I would like to underline how important the arts are to the image of British Columbia as an intriguing, vital destination. Knowing that your government has listened to the nation-wide groundswell of opposition to a policy of drastic arts funding cutbacks will do much to re-focus national attention on the tremendous work being done by your province's artists and arts organizations.

Sincerely,

Timothy Dallett
Interim National Director

Cc: Hon. Kevin Krueger, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

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