



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

Arts Day on the Hill 2014

Video Interview conducted by the Independent Media Arts Alliance

October 21, 2014

The IMAA interviewed Members of Parliament as part of Arts Day on the Hill 2014. Arts supporters from across Canada gathered in Ottawa on Tuesday October 21st to meet with Members of Parliament for the Arts Day on the Hill, organized by The Canadian Arts Coalition: <http://www.canadianartscoalition.com>. The key discussions focused on the role that federal arts investment plays in the economic and social health of Canada. Arts Day on the Hill 2014 saw more than 100 art supporters take part in scheduled meetings with Members of Parliament, senators and senior officials from all parties.

Tyrone Benskin

MP for Jeanne-Le Ber (NDP), Chair of All-Party Arts Caucus

Transcript

Canadian artists are recognized as leaders on the world stage, and the arts play a fundamental role in cultural diplomacy. How would you support showcasing Canadian arts internationally, notably during Canada's upcoming 150th anniversary celebrations?

Canada's 150 anniversary or the upcoming celebrations of Canada's 150th anniversary, I think it's a seminal point in today's Canada. Over the last 25 to 30 years, Canadian arts and Canadian artists have moved to the forefront internationally in all aspects of the arts, filmmaking, music, television and theater. Some of the best known artists in the world are Canadian and I think in celebration of Canada's 150 anniversary I think it's important that we showcase that talent.

I think it's important for many reasons. One, as an identifying marker or self-identifying marker for Canadians, who we are and what we contribute to the world stage especially at an arts and cultural level but also in telling our stories and sharing who we are with the rest of the world and I think for that 150th, and moving on from there, I think it's important that we establish a means for arts and arts organizations, for artists and arts organizations, to spread the word of what Canada is. For our authors, for our playwrights, for our filmmakers to be able to go out into the world and say, this is what Canada is and entice people to come and see us in our home, to come to our theaters here, to come and see our movies, to listen to our music, we've got awesome very unique sounds, Archive Fire, I want to say the Halifax band but I can't remember the name now, but there is a unique wonderful sense and with little nuances right across the country that we want to share, need to share with each other and the rest of the world and I

think one of the most important things that we can do is to create a means for our artists to share that.

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The Independent Media Arts Alliance (IMAA) is a member-driven non-profit national organization working to advance and strengthen the media arts community in Canada. Representing over 90 independent film, video, audio, and new media production, distribution, and exhibition organizations in all parts of the country, the IMAA serves over 16,000 independent media artists and cultural workers.

Media art is understood to apply to all forms of time-related art works which are created by recording sound or visual images. Time-related art works include works in the fields of sound, video and computer art, both installations and internet projects, and single channel works.