



Written Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance Pre-Budget Consultations in
Advance of Budget 2026

Submitted: May 21, 2026

Recommendations

- 1. That the Government of Canada allocate a permanent annual increase of \$140 million to the Canada Council for the Arts;**
- 2. That the Government of Canada ensure that, within the Direct Delivery and Community streams of the Build Communities Strong Fund, a minimum level of funding be dedicated to cultural infrastructure, ensuring that rural and urban communities across Canada are served by cultural facilities.**
- 3. That the government fulfill its commitment by increasing the annual funding of the Canada Music Fund (CMF) to \$60 million on a permanent basis.**
- 4. That the Government of Canada support the Screen Composers's Guild of Canada's pre-budget submission regarding the use of original Canadian score music in audiovisual productions by clarifying tax credit eligibility of certain rights payments to composers.**

Introduction

Founded in 1951, the Canadian League of Composers (CLC) is a National Arts Service Organization dedicated to advocating for and empowering Canadian composers and sound artists. We represent over 600 members nationwide, helping them build and navigate sustainable careers, locally, nationally, and internationally, by fostering creativity, resiliency, and improvements to the artistic landscape in Canada. Our members create diverse and exciting new works that not only engage with Canada's heritage, but also look, sound, and feel like Canada in 2026.

Recommendation 1: That the Government of Canada allocate a permanent annual increase of \$140 million to the Canada Council for the Arts.

This recommendation aligns with the priorities articulated by the Prime Minister in his [mandate letter](#) to cabinet ministers following last year's election. Furthermore, the [2025 Liberal Platform](#) stated that if elected, the Government would:

Support Canadian artists and creators by increasing funding to agencies such as the Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm, the Canada Media Fund, and the National Film Board, recognizing the economic importance of Canada's creative industries and creators.

The CLC welcomes the Government of Canada's recent contributions to heritage and cultural programs including support for the Cultural Export Strategy announced in the Spring Economic Update, and the modest investment in the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) in Budget 2025. We see this as recognition that arts and culture play a vital role in building a strong, ambitious, and confident nation.

Arts and culture are integral to achieving the government's strategic goals: robust support for creators and institutions ensures that artists can do their part to improve Canadian quality of life at home while strengthening Canada's cultural sovereignty abroad. When the Government invests in arts and culture through the CCA, all Canadians reap the attendant financial, employment, and civic benefits from that investment.

A permanent additional investment of \$140 million for the Council directly aligns with the Government of Canada's Build Canada Strong priorities and agenda:

- **Strengthening Canadians and Canadian Sovereignty**

As outlined in the Spring Economic Update, this is a moment for Canadians to lead and for Canada to be ambitious. Strong communities are essential to the federal government's goal of building Canada strong and fulfilling our promise as a nation, and we know that Canadians themselves view arts and culture as integral to the creation of strong communities.

[The most recent survey conducted by Culture Days](#) found that over 80% of Canadians believe arts and culture strengthen Canada's economy and quality of life while also contributing to a distinct national identity. They believe the sector fosters social cohesion, strengthens communities, promotes inclusion, and supports education and cultural awareness, particularly among children.

Similarly, the September [2025 Arts Response Tracking Survey produced by Business / Arts, the National Arts Centre and Nanos Research](#) found that nearly 75% of culture-goers report a positive or somewhat positive impact on their sense of belonging, up from 63% in 2024.

A nation's culture emboldens its identity, and in doing so, strengthens its sovereignty. Canada is no exception to this. Canadian artists tell Canadian stories - stories that help Canadians better understand themselves, engage more deeply with their communities, and ultimately strengthen their own sense of what it means to be Canadian. Arts and culture inspire, connect us, and help Build Canada Strong.

The Canada Council for the Arts is a foundational investment in voices from across the country and across artistic disciplines. Non-profit arts organizations, individual artists, and collectives form the backbone of the cultural community in our nation and the CCA is essential to bringing our stories to life, from coast to coast to coast.

Increased funding for the CCA ensures that our sense of identity is enhanced, our communities are strengthened, and our voices are heard abroad.

According to a survey conducted by the CLC in 2023, over half of Canadian composers and sound artists had accessed support from the CCA in the previous five years. This support has enabled Canadian composers and sound artists to strengthen Canada's voice on the world stage: at the past two [World New Music Days Festivals](#), Canada has been amongst the most well-represented countries. At the 2025 festival, hosted in Portugal, only composers from the host country itself had more of its music being performed than Canada.

- **Employment**

The creative workforce is significant. According to Statistics Canada, in 2023 there were 914,000 workers in arts, culture, and heritage occupations, representing 4.4% of all Canadian workers from coast to coast to coast. Investment in the CCA ensures that Canada's cultural workers can continue to serve Canada in their field of expertise. It is an investment in the artists, creators, and cultural workers in communities right across this country who are helping to create Canada's future.

According to [Canadian Arts Data](#) (CADAC), when parliament doubled the CCA's appropriation between 2016-17 and 2020-21, the Council invested an additional \$150 million in core-funded arts organizations. Over the same period, these organizations reported a substantial increase in paid work for artists, arts workers and other employees, resulting in \$354 million in additional salaries and professional fees paid to Canadian arts workers.

This represents more than a two-fold return in direct employment expenditures.

The CCA has signaled that an additional permanent investment of \$140 million would immediately and efficiently address sectoral instability through an increase to core grants, strategic investment, and national dissemination all through existing organizations and mechanisms. It would translate into immediate, sustained, and expanded employment across the arts sector and lead directly to the improved livability of our communities whilst contributing significantly to the economy. A recent report by [Artworks](#) found that:

- Canada's arts and culture sector contributed \$65 billion in direct impacts to Canada's economy in 2024;
- Arts and culture generated an estimated \$17 billion in federal and provincial tax revenues in 2024.

An urgent, increased permanent annual investment in the Canada Council of \$140M is a powerful investment in Canada's cultural sovereignty; in a stronger, more connected, more confident country.

Recommendation 2: That the Government of Canada ensure that, within the Direct Delivery and Community streams of the Build Communities Strong Fund, a minimum level of funding be dedicated to cultural infrastructure, ensuring that rural and urban communities across Canada are served by cultural facilities.

Artistic and cultural infrastructure is [an integral component](#) of strong, resilient, and inclusive communities across Canada. Cultural facilities such as theatres, galleries, performance spaces, and community arts hubs contribute to both social and economic development by enabling public participation in cultural life, and attracting talent and investment.

Despite its importance, access to cultural infrastructure remains uneven, particularly in rural, remote, and underserved urban communities. Targeted federal investment is therefore required to address these gaps, ensure equitable access to cultural facilities for all Canadians, and enable rural communities to attract and retain talented workers.

The [Build Communities Strong Fund](#) (BCSF) presents a timely opportunity to advance this objective, but it must include a clear and dedicated allocation for artistic and cultural infrastructure within its Direct Delivery and Community streams. Without such a minimum allocation, cultural infrastructure risks being overlooked in favour of competing priorities. While we recognize that this is a new program, safeguards are required to ensure that every community across the country has the cultural infrastructure required for building and sustaining strong communities, and that Canada's cultural sector is adequately supported in its ability to serve communities across the country.

This need is further reinforced by the reorientation of the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF) administered by Canadian Heritage, which underscores the importance of ensuring cultural infrastructure remains explicitly supported through other federal funding streams. Taken together, these developments make it essential to secure a predictable and sustained role for culture within the Building Stronger Communities Fund.

We also note ongoing uncertainty regarding the scope of the reoriented CCSF, particularly in relation to the treatment of specialized equipment. The absence of clear parameters in this regard raises the risk of gaps or unintended overlaps with other infrastructure programs. Given that definitions of "specialized equipment" may vary across departments, it is important to ensure that the specific operational requirements of cultural facilities are clearly defined and adequately supported.

We therefore support the establishment of a dedicated minimum allocation for artistic and cultural infrastructure within the Building Stronger Communities Fund, as an essential measure to ensure equitable access to cultural facilities and the long-term sustainability of Canada's cultural infrastructure eco-system.

Recommendation 3: That the government fulfill its commitment by increasing the annual funding of the Canada Music Fund (CMF) to \$60 million on a permanent basis.

Support provided by the Government of Canada through the Canada Music Fund (CMF) is critical to FACTOR and Musicaction, two key pillars of our music industry's funding ecosystem. However, their funding model is becoming increasingly fragile, particularly due to the significant decline in contributions from commercial radio broadcasters..

In 2025, the government announced the renewal of temporary CMF funding of \$48 million over three years (\$16 million annually), a measure welcomed by the CLC. However, this temporary investment does not provide

long-term stability. Taking these non-permanent additional funds into account, the CMF currently stands at approximately \$41 million annually (for FACTOR and Musicaction). An additional \$19 million must be added to the Fund's core funding in order to reach the objective of \$60 million annually on a permanent basis.

For several years, organizations from across the music sector have called for this additional investment to be integrated into the Fund's base funding. Without a formal commitment, these funds will disappear, further weakening existing programs, artists, and businesses. In order to consolidate recent gains and support the entire music value chain, including the live performance sector, we recommend that annual CMF funding be permanently increased to \$60 million, as had been envisioned by the previous government.

Such a reinvestment would enable funding organizations to restore programs that have been cut, stabilize existing initiatives, develop new support mechanisms, and ensure the sustainability of a sector that is essential to our culture and economy.

Recommendation 4: That the Government of Canada support the Screen Composers's Guild of Canada's pre-budget submission regarding the use of original Canadian score music in audiovisual productions by clarifying tax credit eligibility of certain rights payments to composers.

Original score music is a fundamental component of many audio-visual (AV) productions. It is an area in which Canada excels, with ample opportunity to expand our advantage, attracting more foreign AV producers to Canada.

Both Canadian and foreign service AV productions make significant use of original Canadian scores. While remuneration which is attributable to the labour of a composer is clearly eligible for federal CPTC and PSTC tax credits, it is unclear whether certain rights payments paid to a composer are also eligible for such credits.

The Screen Composer's Guild of Canada (SCGC) has made a significant pre-budget submission to the finance committee that would greatly benefit Canadian composers and sound artists working in the audio-visual sector. Their proposal is strongly supported by the CLC.

Respectfully Submitted,

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