

Email sent to my Member of Parliament, and his assistant

Dear Sir,  
Dear Ms,

I hope there's still time to submit recommendations in the context of the current pre-budget consultation.

I belong to a very large Canadian arts community who, in past years, has taken steps to better articulate the important contribution of artists and cultural workers to their local, Canadian and global economies. Recent studies demonstrate how art and its derived activities produce much salaried employment in the middle class and support a whole sub-economy of freelance workers (in the South-West of Montreal and elsewhere). The presence of artists in a community is also considered an indicator of health.

In a nutshell, I'm recommending in the context of your consultation for #PBC2016 that you support the proposal to double the budget of the Canada Council for the Arts to reach an annual allocation of \$ 360 million by 2017. Since 2007, the Canada Council's Parliamentary appropriation has essentially flat-lined. In fact, per capita spending is slightly below 1990 levels at \$5.34 per capita in 2010, down from \$5.57 per capita in 1990

The Canada Council for the Arts is currently transforming its funding model to better measure and track the impact of its [six new programs](#).

The [Canadian Arts Coalition](#) is an organization managed by its volunteer members that has done great political organizing work; in fact, it's their messages that informed the Liberal party's cultural platform during the last elections. Their steering committee organizes an annual [Arts Day on the Hill](#) event during which members from the wider arts community, in groups of 2-3, spend the day meeting MPs, senators and senior civil servants.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future,

Anne Bertrand  
Resident of Ville-Émard, and, Director of the [Artist-Run Centres and Collectives Conference](#)