

September 30, 2008

Yukon Federal Green Party Arts & Culture Platform

At every level of our society, arts and cultural activities help define our identities and communities. The Arts unlock our individual and collective creativity. Imagination, innovation, and problem-solving abilities are among our greatest resources. The creativity of Yukoners broadens our perspective, offers insight, and shows us the context of our challenges. The Yukon's arts and cultural products and ingenuity are desirable the world over in both the social and market economies. Arts and culture are a fundamental building block of our identity, our well-being, and our heritage for tomorrow.

The Green Party understands that our integrity, our path forward, and our sense of who we are as a nation depend on policies that ensure a thriving, diverse and socially responsible cultural community as part of an inclusive Canada. We will continue and increase support for those cultural institutions that are within the Heritage Canada portfolio: the Canada Council for the Arts, the Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC), the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), and Telefilm Canada. We will reverse the funding cuts of the Harper government for the international exchange of artists and the performance of Canadian arts abroad as they are a vital aspect of effective diplomacy and artistic expression.

As the Green Party MP for the Yukon I will

- Increase support for community arts programs and facilities by establishing stable base-funding at a set percentage of the federal budget
- Promote aboriginal culture, language and history as a fundamental source of Yukon identity
- Establish a grant programme that provides full costs of university, tuition, books, housing and living expenses for 200 Canadian students whose artistic promise is extraordinary
- Protect Canada's cultural identity during trade negotiations
- Increase support for regional arts and music festivals that bring our art & culture to a wider audience
- Provide stable base-funding for the CBC so it can continue to provide quality Canadian content
- Ensure that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) reserves more bandwidth for independent and non-profit stations
- Require cinemas and video chains to have a guaranteed percentage of Canadian content
- Adequately fund our museums to protect our cultural heritage from decay and neglect
- Ensure that arts and culture are a strong component of the Yukon's circumpolar and international relations
- Insist that arts and culture funding panels are peer reviewed and remain beyond the influence of political decision making

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