

October 2024: Arts and Culture and the Provincial Election Talking Points

ArtsLink NB represents the interests, concerns, and contributions of professional artists and other culture workers in New Brunswick. The cultural sector employs 7,311 people and had a direct economic impact of \$609,588 million in New Brunswick in 2022.

We know that arts and culture generate a sense of identity and a richer quality of life. Despite the benefit they bring to our economy, our quality of life, and social fabric, artists and culture workers endure the challenges of low income and the lack of a framework that reflects their needs as professionals.

We encourage our members to attend candidate meetings and ask for support commitments. Not sure what to say? Feel free to use these talking points:

- New Brunswick's *Report on the Status of the Artist* seeks to recognize the role of arts and culture in our daily lives by recommending policy changes that will provide greater security for the vital yet often precarious work of professional artists. What specific measures and funding do you support to fully implement this critical initiative?
- Our cultural industries (film, performing arts, etc.) are significant economic drivers. How would you support their further strategic development?
- The New Brunswick Arts Board (artsnb) is the provincial arts council providing funding to artists and thus encouraging them to live and create in New Brunswick. How would you support and enhance the ability of artsnb to provide adequate funding to this sector?
- Public art brings the arts into the everyday lives of communities across the province. What percentage of public funds would you recommend be allocated to the creation of public art in new building projects? What other measures would your party propose to bring more art into the public sphere?
- Many NB artists currently live below the poverty line because the nature of their work does not "fit" with current criteria for social programs and tax measures. How would you ensure that these programs acknowledge the specific character of creative work?
- Evidence-based research demonstrates that arts education encourages creative problem-solving, collaboration, adaptability, and successful learning in other subjects such as math and science. What specific measures will you support to enable an outstanding K-12 arts education program?
- The contribution of arts and culture to provincial tourism is widely recognized. What action would you take to further develop cultural tourism in NB?
- What measures would you take to ensure that creators (writers, visual artists, composers, etc.) are fairly compensated for the use of their work in educational settings and elsewhere?
- Many artists live below the poverty line. Promising young artists are leaving the province for opportunities elsewhere. More investment is needed, from support for arts education in the K-12 system to grants for artists to fiscal and other measures needed to recognize the professional status of artists. What is your vision for investment in arts and culture funding in NB?