

## **Responses to questions submitted by ArtsLink NB**

- 1. Will a government led by the Liberal Party commit to fully implementing the recommendations of the [Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist](#), released in 2021?**

The Liberal Party of New Brunswick, through its spokesperson for Tourism, Heritage and Culture, Isabelle Thériault, has been advocating the adoption of the Status of the Artist Act in the Legislative Assembly over the past few years. A Holt government will support the work of the Status of the Artist Transition Committee, including coordination with the federal government to improve the status of artists in the province.

- 2. Will a government led by the Liberal Party increase investment in arts and culture, and to what extent?**

The Liberal Party of New Brunswick recognizes the important role the cultural sector plays in New Brunswick's economy, in terms of job creation, revenue generation and strengthening regional identity. A Holt government will capitalize on opportunities to invest in artists across the province, as well as in cultural and creative industries and institutions, to ensure good-paying jobs and a robust creative economy that all New Brunswickers can be proud of.

- 3. How will a government led by the Liberal Party deliver a strong cultural sector strategy?**

The lack of direct support for arts and culture within the New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture has been shared with us by the sector's stakeholders as a recurring concern over the past few years. Sector representatives told us that arts and culture often compete with tourism and heritage priorities, and suffer from outdated funding mechanisms and a lack of specific policy development and long-term strategy. When treated as a secondary priority, New Brunswick misses the opportunity to fully capitalize on the economic potential of the arts sector, which contributes to job creation, tourism and the creative economy as a whole. We believe that art and culture are not just about heritage and preservation, but also about innovation, creation and economic development. A Holt government will ensure that the sector receives the targeted support it needs to thrive.



4. We appreciate seeing the following commitments in your platform: "[A Holt Government will]
- a. Consider arts and culture as important economic and social drivers. Better leverage opportunities to invest in our artists, cultural and creative industries, and institutions to ensure good-paying jobs and a robust creative economy that all New Brunswickers can be proud of.
  - b. Support the transition committee's work on the Status of the Artist."

Are you able to expand on these promises with any specifics?

Thank you for acknowledging our commitments to the arts and culture sector in our platform. Our party recognizes the essential role that arts and culture play in both the economy and the social fabric of New Brunswick. We look forward to collaborating with the sector to identify opportunities that help us deliver on these commitments together.

