

BRIEF to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage
Regional and cultural equity issues vis-à-vis the Canada Council for the Arts

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage,

The Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA) has three requests we feel are appropriate to ask of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage, in consideration of the continued integrity of the Canada Council's independence.

- 1) Recommend the Canada Council **spend its resources more equitably** by region and diversity lens, so as to ensure consistency with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian Human Rights Code, and the Council's equity policy. Regional and cultural equity are necessary considerations in a 21st century pluralistic society.
- 2) Recommend the Canada Council **respect and restore the arms-length principle** internally, by ensuring the integrity of an equitable peer assessment process free from political, bureaucratic or personal influence. Transparent decision-making is a necessity. Recommendations by peer assessment panels should be adhered to by staff, management and the Board of Directors, except in extenuating circumstances.
- 3) Direct the Canada Council to **undertake a consultative review of its processes, accessibility and outcomes under the new model** with the arts community, the public, and key stakeholders, in every region of Canada, with consideration for a plurality of aesthetic practices.

We are grateful to the Government of Canada for its historic once-in-a-generation investment in the artistic landscape. Bumps in the road are a normal part of change. Following through on the planned increment of \$35M to the Council's budget in 2020-21 and maintaining the Council's new base funding level of \$362M through 2024-25 will support transformative change, resulting in better outcomes for Canadian artists, and the public, in all regions, across diversity lenses: Indigenous, Official Language minority communities, people of colour, genders, ages, and abilities.

Please find attached an Executive Summary of our case regarding regional and cultural equity. The nearly 50 pages shared between TAPA, the Canada Council, and the Ontario Arts Council, were also previously disclosed to this Standing Committee. We appreciate your time and consideration.

Respectfully, on behalf of the Board of Directors,



Régine Cadet
President, Board of Directors



Jacoba Knaapen
Executive Director

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Resources

- [TAPA letter to the Canada Council dated September 11, 2018](#)
- [Ontario Arts Council \(OAC\) letter to the Canada Council dated September 25, 2018](#)
- [Canada Council response to OAC dated September 25, 2018](#)
- [TAPA materials presented to Canada Council during meeting on September 27, 2018](#)
- [OAC letter to the Canada Council dated October 24, 2018; Appendix 1; Appendix 2](#)
- [Canada Council response letter to the OAC dated October 26, 2018](#)
- [TAPA letter to the Canada Council dated March 12, 2019](#)
- [TAPA data analysis published March 12, 2019](#)
- [Canada Council response letter to TAPA dated April 3, 2019](#)
- [TAPA response letter to the Canada Council dated May 16, 2019](#)
- [Canada Council response to TAPA dated May 27, 2019](#)