

June 5, 2014

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Dear Mr. Donoghue,

Thank you for your letter and your advocacy on behalf of Ontario's arts and culture sector. The Ontario NDP is a proud supporter of arts and culture in Ontario. We are happy to provide responses to your questions.

With respect to increasing investment we are proposing to create an emerging industries fund to help grow the creative, film and high-tech sectors. We also plan to preserve the current tax credit and grants to film and digital media.

With respect to affordable facilities and housing for artists and arts organizations, Ontario NDP MPP for Parkdale-High Park, Cheri DiNovo, tabled a bill that would allow inclusionary zoning, giving municipalities the ability to require that new development include affordable housing units or other amenities. Over the last 10 years, there has been minimal new investment to expand community service infrastructure that is most needed to support events and programs in arts and culture across the province. That's why we have proposed creating an Open Schools fund. To help not only keep schools open but to find creative ways of collaborating and supporting local community non-profit organizations. It's time to focus on investing in schools as community hubs to ensure public space for arts and culture is available to communities.

Thank you again for your advocacy on this subject. We look forward to working with your organization after June 12th to support arts and culture in Ontario.

Sincerely,

The Ontario NDP