

February 22, 2013

The Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Finance
Room 153
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister de Jong:

On behalf of the Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria I am writing to express our appreciation for the increase to \$24 million for the BC Arts Council program budget.

We understand the difficult economic pressures the province faces, and are grateful for provision to bring the Council's budget to this level. It represents a step towards the \$32 million the community recommended to the Standing Committee on Finance last fall.

ProArt also applauds the government's recognition of the BC Arts Council as the agency to administer the increased funding. We see this as a decision that aligns with the cultural sector's goal of securing stable, long term investment in the arts, and offering a sustainable and real benefit to BC society and its economy.

Increased investment in the arts, through the BC Arts Council and with the BC Creative Futures strategy, will provide opportunities and benefit to communities and emerging artists across the province.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Sandmark
Executive Director

cc. The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier

Working on behalf
of professional
arts organizations

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
Ballet Victoria
Belfry Theatre
Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre
Cinevic
Dance Victoria
Intrepid Theatre
Kaleidoscope
MediaNet
Open Space
The Other Guys Theatre
Pacific Opera Victoria
Puente Theatre
Story Theatre
Theatre Inconnu
Theatre SKAM
Victoria Conservatory of Music
Victoria Film Festival
Victoria Jazz Society
Victoria Symphony