



Dear Candidates:

ArtsVote Niagara is concerned with culture in our community. Culture encompasses arts and heritage and all the specific and unique ways in which people communicate, interact and express themselves. Arts and heritage are expressions of our current and past culture. Culture is also a field of endeavour and a business sector with commercial and not-for-profit interests.

Thank you for participating in the ArtsVote Niagara 2011 survey. We are very interested in your views relating to culture and government. Your survey responses will be graded, made public, and widely distributed throughout Niagara prior to the upcoming election.

The survey should take about 10-15 minutes. It is comprised primarily of multiple choice questions – the answers provided may not perfectly reflect your view or sensibility but choose the answer that most closely represents your view. You may add comments at the end of the survey.

There are three sections to this survey:

*Section 1*

Questionnaire (15 questions)

*Section 2*

Candidate's Comments

*Section 3*

Candidate Information

The results will be tabulated and each candidate will be assigned a grade based on their survey answers. A separate evaluation will be undertaken of party platforms and cultural policies. These grades will be gathered into a report card that will be widely distributed throughout the cultural sector in the Niagara Peninsula.

**ArtsVote Niagara** is a cross-disciplinary, non-partisan committee of volunteers who seek the views and examine the voting records of candidates on arts-related issues. **ArtsVote Niagara** provides this objective information to communities affected by the arts and cultural sectors so voters can make informed decisions.

[www.artsvoteniagara.ca](http://www.artsvoteniagara.ca)



**Section 1 – Multiple Choice**

1. Over the last five years, what are the ways in which you have participated in locally based arts, heritage and cultural activities or organizations in the Niagara Region?  
 (Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

|  | Never                    | Once                     | 2-3 times                | 4+ times                 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Donations to arts, cultural or heritage organizations  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Volunteer work   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Attendance at events                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Board service  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Collector of local art                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Membership in arts, cultural or heritage organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please provide us with a few examples of how you've participated:

---



---

2. In the last year, what are the ways in which you have experienced locally based arts, cultural and heritage activities in the Niagara Region?  
 (Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

|                            | Never                    | Once                     | 2-3 times                | 4+ times                 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Art Galleries              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dance                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dinner Theatre             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Festivals                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Films                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historical Museums         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic Sites             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Libraries                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Music Recitals or Concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Theatre                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please provide us with a few examples of what you've experienced:

---



---



---



3. Culture and cultural programs have a role to play in which of the following federal concerns?  
(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Health of Canadians  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Economic development   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| International trade and relations  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Intellectual property rights   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Citizenship and immigration  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Intellectual property rights   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Heritage preservation  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None of the above (space for comments is available at the end of the survey) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. While some of these statements may be true or false to some extent, please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

|   | Disagree                 | Somewhat Disagree        | Somewhat Agree           | Agree                    |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| The arts are important for all the unique ways they inspire ideas, creativity and innovation.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are important for fostering relationships between individuals and cultures.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cultural infrastructure provides community gathering places that reinforce the social fabric of our community and our sense of belonging. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Heritage institutions are important to forging our sense of individual, community, and national identity.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our cultural infrastructure should not be a funding priority during troubled economic times.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cultural programming promotes connections between individuals and a deeper understanding across diverse communities.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are primarily a recreational pursuit that should be sustainable without public support.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The cultural sector makes significant contributions to sustainable communities.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts attract people whose values do not represent the views of mainstream Canadians.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Participation in the arts can reduce prejudice and increase social cohesion.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts tend to be elitist and don't engage a lot of ordinary people.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| An education in the arts enhances aptitudes for lifelong learning, communication and versatility in the workplace.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



|  |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cultural institutions and activities are not as important as sporting facilities and activities.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are a labour intensive, non-polluting, renewable source of economic development.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts hold limited interest for me, but I remain open-minded.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are important for their role in the economic revitalization of downtowns.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are a type of recreational activity and should receive no more than a basic level of public subsidy.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cultural programs promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of shared citizenship and opportunities to participate in Canada's civic life. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. At the federal level, public funding of the arts has been justified by a variety of rationales over the years. Which are the arguments you are most comfortable making in support of federal investment in the arts?  
(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| The arts and heritage, and especially cultural attractions, have significant economic impact. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are agents of social change and important partners in social problem solving.        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts for arts' sake – they are an expression of ourselves and our national culture.       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are in the public interest because they improve the quality of community life.       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts stimulate innovation by nurturing the knowledge-based economy.                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None of the above <i>(space for comments is available at the end of the survey)</i>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6. In economically troubled times, which of the following statements best reflects your opinion?  
(Check the one statement that best reflects your opinion)

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| It is unlikely that the majority of my constituents would accept increased cultural spending – a modest reduction across all cultural programs would be appropriate. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Arts, heritage and cultural programs, like all government programs, should be reviewed periodically for opportunities to reduce or increase government spending.     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| All cultural spending should be cut.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cultural spending is modest in the scheme of things and, I would argue, should not be cut.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cultural spending should only be made in programs that have an economic impact.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Investment in culture should be increased immediately as a means of preserving cultural identity while driving innovation and stimulating economic recovery.         | <input type="checkbox"/> |

7. What specific investments would strengthen the arts and culture as a component of a national economic strategy?  
(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Support for programs which provide training and professional development for artists | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|



- 
- Developing innovative intellectual property rules through new copyright legislation
  - Ensuring public investment in the production of new Canadian cultural content
  - Protecting Canadian ownership and control of our cultural industries
  - Supporting programs that extend opportunities for digital literacy to all Canadians.
  - None of the above *(space for comments is available at the end of the survey)*
- 

8. Only Canadian culture can express the uniqueness of our country, which is bilingual, multicultural, and deeply influenced by its Aboriginal roots, the North, the oceans, and its own vastness. As John Ralston Saul stated in his study submitted to the Special Joint Committee Reviewing Canadian Foreign Policy:

"Canadian culture is the vision of a northern people who, despite substantial and constant difficulties, found a way to live together while other nations tore themselves apart and imposed monolithic, centralized mythologies on themselves."

What specific investments to strengthen the arts and culture would you support including as a component of a national economic strategy?

(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

- 
- Extend support to Canadian artists and creators and promote their access to foreign markets and audiences
  - Ensure that international trade agreements include certain cultural provisions enabling federal support and the export of our domestic cultural industries
  - Further develop strategies to encourage and protect domestic creative industry
  - Follow the current example of many countries, such as the United States, and reinvest in cultural diplomacy programs to improve relations and better position ourselves on the world stage
  - None of the above *(space for comments is available at the end of the survey)*
- 

9. Considering that the arts and culture sector generated approximately \$25 billion in taxes for all levels of government in 2007, do you support an increase in funding to the Canada Council for the Arts?

- Yes
- No

10. Fifty-nine countries worldwide have legislated an Artist's Resale Right for visual artists. A resale right would provide 5% of the value of a resold art work to the artist who created it so that they could share in the profits being made from their work. Canada's European trade partners specifically requested that Canada adopt the Artist's Resale Right during negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. Do you support a resale right for visual artists as part of Canadian copyright law?

- Yes
- No



11. The Arts and Cultural sector contributed \$85 billion or 7.4% to Canada’s GDP in 2007. It is an industry that employs more than 630,000 Canadians, as many people as the sectors of agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, oil, gas and utilities combined. However, despite being highly educated and skilled, artists earn about half of the average earnings of other workers with similar qualifications and are five times more likely to be self-employed. Which of the following do you identify as good ideas to support and protect these workers?  
(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Allow artists that have been recognized by their peers to deduct their legitimate business expenses against earnings regardless of what income threshold they reach | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Allow artists whose income often fluctuates greatly from year to year to average their income and expenditures over several tax years                               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Provide self-employed artists broader access to public retraining programs, particularly those that are funded through the Employment Insurance program             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Research models from other countries that extend health, pension and other social benefits to artists   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None of the above (space for comments is available at the end of the survey)  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

12. “Owning one national communications facility, such as the CBC, which owes nothing to Mitsubishi or General Dynamics or Krupp, is surely worth keeping. What we know about the CBC, in a world in which economics is power and so much power is out of our hands, is that the CBC would never wilfully betray our national interest or sell off our Canadian heritage. And we are its only shareholders. When you hear people talk about reducing the role of the CBC, or selling off its assets, look closely at who’s talking – it won’t be a voice speaking for the people of Canada, but for shareholders of another kind of corporation.”  
- Dalton Camp

In 2008, the Heritage Committee recommended an increase in per capita funding to the CBC of \$40 per annum from \$33. Do you agree with the recommendation of this all-party committee?  
Yes   
No

13. What is your position on the role of the public broadcaster in the 21st century?  
(Check the one answer that best reflects your opinion)

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| A well funded, independent and broadly accessible public broadcaster is important to serving the Canadian public and sustaining a shared Canadian culture. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The CBC is an important cultural institution, but in these economic times funding increases are not a priority.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A public broadcaster must balance its output of Canadian content with sufficient popular, commercial content to minimize the burden of its financing.      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public broadcasters should be steadily reducing their reliance on public funding.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The question of public broadcasting is not a significant issue for my constituents.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |



14. The Broadcasting Act contains legislative and regulatory measures to ensure Canadian ownership and effective control of traditional telecommunications such as over-the-air, cable and satellite distribution services. Should new distribution platforms such as the internet and wireless communications be subject to the same national ownership criteria and/or be mandated to provide the same financial support to Canadian programming?  
 (Check the one answer that best reflects your opinion)

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Canadian owned companies are easier to regulate than foreign transnationals and Canadian ownership helps ensure the telling of Canadian stories.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Market forces will shape programming and make Canadian content available without Canadian ownership or government regulation and/or support.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I support Canadian ownership of telecommunication companies along with a policy to make internet and wireless service providers contribute financially to the development of Canadian content for all distribution platforms. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

15. The arts were a big issue in the 2008, but we don't seem to be talking about them much during this campaign. Have the challenges raised in 2008 been conclusively resolved?

- Yes
- No

If no, what do you think some of the key arts and cultural issues facing a new federal government will be?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---





**Section 3 – Candidate Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Riding: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: www. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is this questionnaire being completed by the candidate? Yes / No  
a) If not, please state the name, position and telephone number of the person who is filling out this questionnaire.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you wish your completed survey to be made available publicly? Yes / No  
3. Will you forward your resume or biography to candidates@artsvoteniagara.com? Yes / No

**Affirmation:** I have read and understand the previous questions and declare that the responses to this questionnaire are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed questionnaires should be returned to the following address  
by no later than 4 p.m. on Saturday 23 April 2011

**ArtsVote** c/o Niagara Artists Centre  
354 St. Paul Street  
St. Catharines ON L2R 3N2

THANK YOU!