

Arts, Culture & Heritage WORK for Nova Scotia

THE ASK

That the Government of Nova Scotia immediately **reverse the proposed cuts to the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, and Arts Nova Scotia** in the 2026-27 budget.

This government saw the important role Arts, Culture & Heritage plays in the economic vitality of NS when it increased funding in 2023.

CONTEXT

However, they have now proposed drastic cuts that would take us further behind where we were before the increase. In addition to operating funding being cut, many of the programs that keep the ecosystem even moderately healthy are being destroyed: Artists in Schools, SKILL labour programs, project grants, et al.

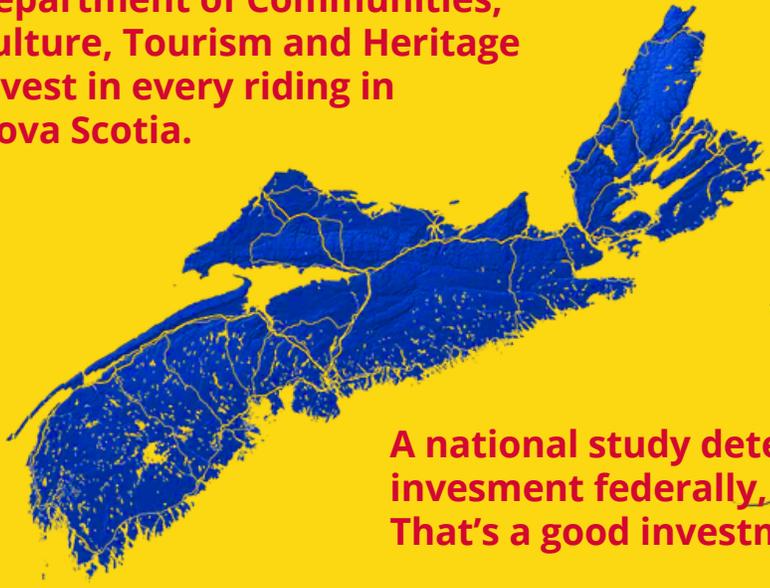
- **We know that Nova Scotia's finances are in difficult shape and we want to be part of the solution**
- **Return on Investment:** Investment in Arts, Culture & Heritage makes good economic sense (*see next page*).
- **Healthcare and the arts:** We are part of what makes Nova Scotia attractive to Health Care professionals. There is extensive research to show that involvement in Arts, Culture & Heritage improves health outcomes, reduces strain on the health care system and improves productivity. **A healthy arts economy makes a healthier province**

THE MESSAGES

- **Employment:** The sector employs over 14,000 Nova Scotians in cultural work. These are taxpaying Nova Scotians in every riding whose livelihoods are already being threatened by the **potential** of cuts.
- **Tourism:** Arts, Culture & Heritage play an essential role in the attractiveness of Nova Scotia as a destination. Our work benefits the province by increasing tourism, but all that will be undone if the cuts go through. Events and productions will be cancelled. Even the traditional welcome we are known for will be eliminated at the airport and in our communities through the loss of Visitor Information Centres.

FUNDING FOR ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE HELPS NOVA SCOTIA GROW

Arts Nova Scotia and the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage invest in every riding in Nova Scotia.



We ask that the Government of Nova Scotia **reverse the potential cuts in the proposed budget for 2026-27**

We further ask that the government work with the sector so that Nova Scotian Arts, Culture & Heritage can be a dynamic part of how we ensure the success of our province and our communities into the future.

A national study determined that for each \$1 of investment federally, there is a return of \$29. That's a good investment!

WHAT DO WE CONTRIBUTE?

THE FACTS

\$2.6

BILLION

of Nova Scotia's GDP
(direct, indirect and implied impacts)

14,000

EMPLOYED

in the Arts & Culture sector, more than farming, fishing and forestry **combined**.

\$331

MILLION

in Provincial tax revenue

22,000

JOBS

in combined direct and indirect jobs because of Arts, Culture and Heritage

For **every \$1** the NS government contributes in grants, recipients generate **\$4.59** in other revenue, and serve over **558,569** public participants (CADAC)

WE MAKE OUR PROVINCE BETTER

Higher grants per capita is associated with higher reported ratings of sense of meaning and purpose. Similar results occur when measuring against life satisfaction.

More Arts, Culture & Heritage workers live and work in rural communities than the national average. This means that these cuts will have higher impacts on rural ridings.

Arts and Culture help the province recruit and retain creative professionals, health care workers and business. Culture matters to corporations, small businesses and individuals when choosing where to locate.

SOURCES

SECTOR figures courtesy of *Artworks: The Economic and Social Dividends from Canada's Arts and Culture Sector*, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, commissioned by Business / Arts and Canada Council for the Arts, 2025.

Willing to work together with government for the future of Nova Scotia

