

What are the arts and cultural policies of the parties running in this election?

The following parties have arts and cultural policies outlined in their party platforms:

Christian Heritage Party
www.chp.ca/en/policy/chapter10.html

Green Party
www.greenparty.ca/en/policy/artsandculture

Liberal Party
www.liberal.ca/pdf/platform/2008lp_richer_e.pdf

New Democratic Party
www.ndp.ca/platform/otherpriorities/supportingculture

The following parties do not have specific arts and cultural policies:

Conservative Party
www.conservative.ca

Communist Party
www.comunist-party.ca

Marxist-Leninist Party
www.mlpc.ca

The Canadian Conference of the Arts and the Canadian Museums Association both surveyed the five major political parties: the Bloc Quebecois, the Conservative Party, the Green Party, the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party. All but the Conservative Party have responded to surveys on arts, cultural and heritage issues. Please check the CCA (www.ccarts.ca) and CMA (www.museums.ca) websites for news and information on the parties' positions on arts and culture.

Who is behind ArtsVote Niagara?

ArtsVote Niagara 2008 is governed by an Executive Committee of five volunteers from the cultural sector: Janis Barlow, Colleen Blake, Stephen Remus, Virginia Stewart and Debbie Slade.

Special thanks are due to the volunteer efforts of: Pablo Felices-Luna, Jane Gardner, Brian Kremen, Joe Lapinski, Melanie MacDonald, Sara Palmieri, Natasha Pedros, Elaine Smithies, Kasia Smuga, Odette Yazback, Annie Wilson and everyone who has donated or has helped to disseminate information about *ArtsVote Niagara* 2008.

ArtsVote Niagara is grateful for the advice and inspiration of *ArtsVote Toronto* founders Pat Bradley, Jennifer Ginder, Jane Marsland, Susan Serran, Sandra Tulloch and logo creator, Barbara Klunder.

What can I do to support ArtsVote Niagara?

As an artist, arts supporter or arts, culture or heritage worker, you can:

- Vote on Tuesday, October 14
- Encourage your friends and family to vote
- Pick up ArtsVote Report Cards and give them to your colleagues
- Tell your colleagues to check out www.artsvoteniagara.ca on line
- Volunteer to help *ArtsVote Niagara*
- Contribute to *ArtsVote Niagara* and the \$20 campaign

To learn more about *ArtsVote Niagara*, visit www.artsvoteniagara.ca

Who is telling me how to vote?

Nobody! Your vote is your business.

ArtsVote Niagara is a cross-disciplinary, non-partisan network of volunteers that encourages artists, arts supporters and arts, culture and heritage workers to vote. By soliciting and evaluating candidate views, we give you information on how candidates compare to one another on arts, culture and heritage questions. *You make your own choices!*

How do I know I am eligible to vote?

The right to vote in Canada is universally guaranteed by the Constitution since the adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982.

You are entitled to vote in federal elections if you are a Canadian citizen, and will be 18 or older on polling day. You will receive a Voter Notification Notice in the mail in early October advising where to vote. For valuable information about registering, further information about voting and links to the candidates involved in the current election please visit the Elections Canada website (www.elections.ca) or call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868.

NEW! ID required

New rules under the Canada Elections Act now require electors to prove their identity and address before being given a ballot at the polling station.

You must provide either:

One original piece of identification issued by a government or government agency containing your photo, name and address. (eg. Driver's licence and Health Card.)

Two original pieces of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada. Both pieces must contain your name, and one must also contain your address. (eg. Health Card, Social Insurance Number Card, Birth Certificate, Credit Card Statement or Bank Statement)

You can be vouched for by an elector whose name appears on the list of electors in the same polling division and who has an acceptable piece or pieces of identification. Both will be required to make a sworn statement. An elector cannot vouch for more than one person, and the person who has been vouched for cannot vouch for another elector.

Where do I go to vote?

Depending upon where you live, you can contact the following offices to find out where the polling station nearest to you is located.

St. Catharines 1-866-275-1657

Niagara Falls - NOTL - Ft. Erie 1-866-249-5757

Niagara West - Glanbrook 1-866-249-5810

Welland - Thorold - Pt. Colborne 1-866-281-5090



ArtsVote Niagara Report Card 2008

Why should I bother to vote?

Arts, heritage and culture represent who we are and what it means to be Canadian. Government has a direct impact on arts, culture and heritage. Your vote will affect which programs and services are maintained, developed, funded and managed.

***In art and in politics,
each and every voice can make
a difference.***

2008 Federal Election Report Card

Niagara Falls - NOTL - Ft. Erie	Niagara West-Glanbrook	St. Catharines	Welland-Thorold-Pt. Colborne
<u>Conservative Party</u> Robert Nicholson R	<u>Christian Heritage Party</u> Dave Bylsma R	<u>Communist Party</u> Sam Hammond A	<u>Conservative Party</u> Alfred Kiers D
<u>Green Party</u> Shawn Willick B	<u>Conservative Party</u> Dean Allison R	<u>Conservative Party</u> Rick Dykstra C	<u>Green Party</u> Jennifer Mooradian A
<u>Liberal Party</u> Joyce Morocco A	<u>Green Party</u> Sid Frere R	<u>Green Party</u> Jim Fannon A	<u>Independent</u> Jody Di Bartolomeo R
<u>NDP</u> Eric Gillespie A	<u>Liberal Party</u> Heather Carter A	<u>Liberal Party</u> Walt Lastewka B	<u>Liberal Party</u> John Maloney A
	<u>NDP</u> David Heatley R	<u>NDP</u> George Addison A	<u>Marxist-Leninist</u> Ron Walker B
		<u>NDP</u> Malcom Allen A	

How did you grade the candidates?

In the 2008 federal election campaign, a survey was developed by the *ArtsVote Niagara* Executive Committee for distribution by email to candidates running for federal election in the Niagara Region. The survey is available on line at www.artsvoteniagara.ca

What do the grades mean?

The *ArtsVote Niagara* 2008 grades are based on candidates' responses to multiple choice answer surveys. A cautionary note: it is one thing to excel in a survey and another to deliver on a platform that includes a collaborative, strategic and productive engagement of the cultural sector. Here is a guide to help explain what the current grades mean.

A+ DAZZLING. A leader who talks the talk and walks the walk. Boldly champions arts, culture and heritage issues. Fully informed and engaged. This grade is reserved for incumbents or former incumbents who have proven integrity.

A OUTSTANDING. Advocates the value of the arts, culture and heritage to municipal life. Talks the talk and offers some evidence they will walk the walk.

B SOLID. Assumes some arts, culture or heritage friendly positions. Has provided support and offered some degree of awareness of the importance of the sector.

C UNFAMILIAR. Arts, culture and heritage issues are not high on the priority list, the candidate is unfamiliar with the principles on which the sector operates, or is reluctant to make commitments.

D INADEQUATE. Uninterested or completely unfamiliar with the concerns and perspectives of artists or arts, heritage and culture workers.

R REMEDIAL ACTION REQUIRED. Did not return the survey and failed to indicate why.

NOTICE TO READER The marking of the surveys was performed by ArtsVote Niagara 2008. We were not involved in the survey design or the marking process and therefore we provide no comment thereon. The survey design and the marking process were strictly the responsibility of ArtsVote Niagara 2008. We verified the addition of the marks assigned by ArtsVote Niagara 2008 for each survey. We verified the conversion of the numerical grade to the letter grade for each survey according to the procedure and scale provided by ArtsVote Niagara 2008. We have not audited, reviewed or otherwise attempted to verify the accuracy or completeness of such information.

What is the current government's record of funding the arts and culture?

According to a September 23, 2008 Canadian Conference of the Arts bulletin, a three year study of budgets for the Department of Canadian Heritage from 2005/06 to 2008/09 revealed certain trends.

Overall funding to key grants and contribution programs at the Department has remained relatively stable over the past three fiscal years. However, there have been a number of budget reallocations within the Department.

Canadian Heritage operates under two broad Strategic Outcomes. Under the first outcome, the government supports Canadians to express and share their diverse cultural experiences with each other and the world. This is where funding for the arts, heritage and cultural institutions and industries occurs. The second Strategic Outcome positions Canada as an inclusive society built on inter-cultural understanding and citizen participation.

While the overall budget of the Department remains fairly stable, there seems to be a trend for funding to be reallocated from the first strategic outcome towards the second one. Thus, in 2008, the largest increase (\$46.1 million) accrues to the Department's second Strategic Outcome while the first one shows a net decrease of \$17.8 million. Statistically, in 2007/08 the proportion of overall departmental funding to the first strategic outcome was 57%. This figure declined in 2008/09 to 54.6%.

A notable reallocation of funding within Heritage includes the cuts which have surfaced since April 1, 2008. Savings appear to have been reallocated toward a \$30 million commitment to the Canada Council for the Arts budget and three other programs under the second Strategic Outcome: the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays, the Road to Excellence for summer Olympic athletes, and the Official Languages Action Plan. Budget 2008-09 provided \$25 million to the torch relays, and \$24 million over two years and \$24 million ongoing annually to the Road to Excellence programs. The program for the Development of Official Languages Communities received an increase of \$24.7 million.

www.ccarts.ca/en/FedGovCuts.htm for more information.

It would appear that the current government is honouring the previous government's pledge to increase support to the Canada Council for the Arts and are doing so by reallocating funds from arts programs in the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Recent cuts to the arts have been in the news. What exactly has been cut?

Excerpted from List of Recent Cuts in Federal Funding for the Arts (since April 1, 2008) Canadian Conference of the Arts, September 2, 2008

E-culture (Culture.ca & Canadian Cultural Observatory, including Culturescope.ca)
• Budget: \$4.36 million

Trade Routes Program
• Budget: \$9 million

PromArt (Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade)
• Budget: \$4.7 million

Canadian Independent Film and Video Fund
• Budget: \$1.5 million

National Training Program for the Film and Video Sector
• Budget: \$2.5 million

Audio-visual Preservation Trust
• Reduced by: \$150,000

Canadian culture online (Research and Development Component)
• Budget: \$5.64 million

Canadian Memory Fund
• Budget: \$11.57 million

Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Program (Stabilization Project)
• Budget: \$627,000

Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Program (Capacity Building)
• Budget: Cut from \$6.1 million to \$4.5 million, a reduction of \$1.8 plus \$1 million cut from internal salaries and fees

Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Programs (Endangered arts organizations)
• Budget: \$500,000

Canadian Music Fund (Canadian Music Memories Component)
• Budget: \$150,000

Northern Native Broadcast Access Program
• Budget: \$2.1 million

Book Publishing Industry Development Program
• Reduced by: \$1 million

Canada Magazine Fund
• Reduced by: \$500,000

Canada New Media Fund
• Budget: \$14.6 million

TOTAL CUTS: \$60,597,000