



Dear Candidates:

Thank you participating in the ArtsVote Niagara 2008 survey of your positions on issues of interest to the arts, heritage and cultural sectors. It should take about 10 to 15 minutes depending upon how you choose to respond to the questions. It is comprised primarily of multiple choice and yes or no answers.

Section # 1

Multiple Choice Questions - 19 questions

Section # 2

Position Statements, Contact Information - 11 questions

The results will be tabulated and each candidate will be assigned a grade based on the survey, public position statements and voting record while in office. A separate evaluation will be undertaken of party platforms and cultural policies. The report card on all the candidates will be widely distributed throughout the cultural sector in the Niagara Peninsula.

The deadline for return of the survey is Wednesday, September 30, 2008 at 4:00 pm.

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.



SECTION #1 - GENERAL QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY ALL CANDIDATES

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS.

1. In the last year, which of the following arts and cultural activities and/or institutions have you attended in the Niagara Region? Check all that apply:

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Regularly
Museums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art Galleries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music Performances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Film Festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heritage Festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Literary Festivals, Readings or Book Fairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Culture and cultural programs have a role to play in the following federal concerns (check all that apply):

Health Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry Canada and Economic Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Resources and Social Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship and Immigration	<input type="checkbox"/>
All of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above. My view point is...	<input type="checkbox"/>



3. While many of the following statements may be true to some extent, please indicate to what extent the following statements represent your view.

	Not at all	Not Sure	Somewhat True	Agreed	Absolutely!
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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural infrastructure serves as 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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heritage institutions are important for helping to forge our sense of individual, community and national identity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural programming promotes connections among Canadians and a deeper understanding across diverse communities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation in the arts has been shown to reduce racism and juvenile delinquency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
An education in the arts enhances aptitudes for life-long learning, communication and versatility in the workplace.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts hold limited interest for me because they are not part of my background, but I remain open-minded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our cultural infrastructure is enjoyed by many Canadians but can not be a funding priority during troubled economic times.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts can be an alternative type of recreational activity and should continue to receive a basic level of public subsidy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural institutions and activities are important, but not as popular as sporting activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts tend to appeal primarily to people who have particular artistic talents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts attract people whose values do not represent the views or sensibilities of mainstream Canadians.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts infrastructure is primarily a recreational pursuit that should be sustainable without public support.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



4. 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 a federal investment in the arts? (Please check all that apply.)

- The arts for arts' sake - they are an expression of ourselves and our national culture.
- The arts are in the public interest because they improve the quality of community life.
- The arts and heritage, and especially cultural attractions, have significant economic impact.
- The arts are agents of social change and important partners in social problem solving.
- The arts stimulate innovation by attracting and fuelling the knowledge-based worker.
- All of the above.
- None of the above. My view point is...

5. In the next five years, Federal arts funding should focus on (check all that apply):

- The creation and dissemination of diverse Canadian cultural works, stories and symbols.
- Increased access to arts and participation in Canada's cultural life.
- Sustainability of programs and operations in the not-for-profit cultural sector.
- Capital investment in cultural infrastructure.
- A policy framework and programs for developing and supporting museums.
- All of the above.
- None of the above. My view is...



6. In the next five years, Federal heritage funding should focus on (check all that apply):

- Preservation and investment in heritage sites of national significance.
- Increased access to Canadian heritage sites, museums and related programming.
- Sustainability of the not-for-profit heritage sector.
- Commercialization of heritage sites.
- Preservation and investment in heritage sites of local significance.
- All of the above.
- None of the above. My view is....

7. The Cultural Spaces Canada program is coming to the end of its initial program tenure. The program has been an important source of funding for cultural infrastructure preservation and development. Please read these answers and check the one that best reflects your opinion:

- Given the economic forecast, a culturally specific capital funding program should not be a priority at this time.
- It is an important to have an ongoing culturally specific capital program of some kind available at the federal level; a reduced version of Cultural Spaces Canada may suffice.
- Culture is one of sixteen eligible building project types in the Building Canada program; municipalities should be establishing all infrastructure priorities locally.
- The Cultural Spaces Program should be improved and expanded based on demand and the experience of the last several years.
- The Cultural Spaces Program should be renewed more or less as is.
- None of the above. My view point is...



8. The most important way of establishing *arts* funding priorities and appropriate program content is through (check one only):

- Arms length, peer juries of arts professionals.
- Federal Departmental staff who specialize in the arts.
- Politically appointed advisory committees
- Guidelines that reflect community values
- Guidelines derived from federal election platforms
- None of the above. My view point is...

9. In a recent federal report, culture was identified as one of the four pillars of community sustainability. What do you believe should be the federal government’s role in facilitating an understanding of the cultural pillar at the local municipal level? (Check one only)

- The Federal government should not attempt to exert any influence over local municipal policy development.
- Federal departments and agencies should play a minor role in research, analysis and the development of policy guidelines.
- Federal departments should encourage cultural planning at the municipal level through workshops and tool kits.
- Federal departments should host cross-provincial discussions through agencies such as the Creative City Network to identify best practices and facilitate the development of standards in municipal cultural planning.
- Federal departments should extend funding support for municipal cultural planning that reflects best practices, regional distinctions and the national cultural policy.
- None of the above. My view point is...



10. Troubling economic times have been forecast for the immediate future. In economically troubling times, which of the following statements best reflects your opinion? (Check one answer only)

- Arts, heritage and cultural, like other non essential government spending programs should be reviewed for opportunities to reduce government spending.
 - Politically, it is unlikely that the majority of Canadians would be accepting of increased cultural spending – a modest reduction would be more appropriate
 - Cultural spending is modest in the scheme of things and I would argue, should not be cut.
 - Cultural spending should be reviewed for opportunities to make strategic investments that may have an economic impact.
 - Investment in culture should be increased as a means of stimulating economic recovery.
 - None of the above. My view point is...
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11. What best expresses your opinion of the relationship between cultural exchanges and international relations? (Check one answer only)

- Cultural exchange is unrelated to successful economic exchange.
 - Cultural exchange can improve diplomatic relations.
 - Cultural exchange eases economic exchange.
 - Cultural exchange is important for expanding potential markets for cultural producers.
 - Cultural exchange is a prerequisite to successful economic exchange.
 - None of the above. My view point is...
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12. Pirating of creative works on the Internet has become widespread. This has resulted in the significant loss of income for musicians and promises to become a major issue for film-makers, writers, visual artists and other creators. What best represents your position on the issue? (Check one answer only)

- Copyright changes should be a priority for the Federal government. Bill C-61 is ineffective. Further consultation with the Creators Copyright Coalition is required to produce legislation that aligns with other nations.
- With minor changes to Bill C-61 the issue of piracy can be addressed.
- I have no opinion or am unfamiliar with the issue.
- The current proposed changes to Bill C-61 adequately addressed these concerns.
- This is not an election issue that is relevant to my constituency.
- None of the above. My view point is...

13. What is your position on the role of the public broadcaster in the 21st century?

- A well funded, independent public broadcaster is important to serving the Canadian public and sustaining a shared Canadian culture.
- An independent public broadcaster is important to Canada and a solid strategy for renewal will be required before any funding increases are approved.
- A public broadcaster must balance its output of Canadian content with sufficient popular, commercial content to minimize the burden of its financing.
- Public broadcasters should by steadily reducing their reliance on public funding.
- The question of public broadcasting is not a significant issue for my constituents.
- None of the above. My view point is:



14. The Canada Council for the Arts has been this country's primary source of arts funding for the development of the professional arts sector. Recent governments have approved long awaited increases to its funding base - to be awarded over three years. Will you support funding increases to the Canada Council?

- Yes
- No

15. Since 1929, Canada's cultural policies have been subject to two conflicting perspectives - some argue that a freer market for cultural products will provide incentives for Canadian culture producers to create and profit from their work. Others believe that government grants for small presses, local theatres and new Canadian artists are essential to nurturing Canadian voices and preserving Canadian stories. Do you support reductions in funding and a freer market?

- Yes
- No

16. Do you believe that the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 is a celebration of national significance and worthy of every effort to secure significant federal funding for local celebrations?

- Yes
- No

17. Do you agree that culture should continue to be a shared responsibility between the Federal and Provincial governments?

- Yes
- No

18. Many small cultural organizations require periodic assistance to stabilize and grow their operations as they develop. Does your party intend to replace the recently cut funding programs dedicated to sustainability?

- Yes
- No

19. Does your party plan to replace the recently eliminated New Media fund?

- Yes
- No



SECTION #2 - CANDIDATE'S COMMENTS, POSITION STATEMENTS and INFORMATION

20. What, in your opinion, is the most under-rated cultural attraction in your riding?

21. Candidates may provide further comments or position statements on arts or arts-related cultural, multi-cultural and heritage issues and priorities, including relevant education, work experience and volunteer work.

22. Upon completion I will forward my resume to info@artsvoteniagara.com

- Yes
- No

23. I do not have a resume, please refer to my biography on-line.

- Yes
- No

www.

24. Please refer to my website.

- Yes
- No

25. Website:

www.



26. CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Email: _____

27. Do you wish your completed survey to be made available publicly?

- Yes
- No

28. 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: _____

29. Was this questionnaire completed by the candidate?

- Yes
- No

30. If not, please state the name, position and telephone number of the person who filled out this questionnaire.

Name: _____
Position: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Date: _____

The completed questionnaire is to be returned to the following address
no later than **Wednesday, September 30, 2008 at 4:00 pm.**

ArtsVote c/o Niagara Artists' Company
354 St. Paul Street,
St. Catharines, ON, Canada
L2R 3N2

THANK YOU!