**LOGO**

**Submission for
Federal Government**

**Pre-Budget Consultations, 2023**

**FROM: Name of Organisation**

**Contact Info**

**Recommendations**

**Recommendation 1:**

That the government allows for full loan forgiveness for theatres and not-for-profit organizations who received support from the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA).

**Recommendation 2:**

That the government implement a ticket-matching program which covers the summer 2023 through 2024 seasons for theatre and other arts organisations to protect against altered buying habits and reticence from audiences during the reopening transition for the cultural sector.

***Ideally this would form part of a national strategy to promote returning to the arts through a national year of Canadian Culture (in line with and supporting Bill C-11).***

**Recommendation 3:**

That the government improve equity and inclusion in program funding by simplifying and accelerating application and assessment processes for new applicants to funding programs at the Canada Council for the Arts and Canadian Heritage.

**Recommendation 4:**

That the government, as part of the upcoming **Green Buildings Strategy**, increase investment to Canadian Heritage’s Canada Cultural Spaces Fund and ***ensure eligibility of, and prioritize arts and culture organizations in new Infrastructure programs and initiatives.*** This will prioritize climate change, protect the environment, and upgrade ventilation and filtration for safety in the performing arts.

**Recommendation 5:**

To expand and reimagine existing programs such as Canada Summer Jobs and Young Canada Works and others to increase the ability of arts organisations to encourage careers in the arts through more adaptive programs. This would enable more organisations to attract more talent and to reap the benefits of a long training period and a commitment to the organisations and their communities.

Submission

***About you or your organisation’s connection to Culture***

Our sector – especially in live theatre - has been the hardest hit during the COVID-19 pandemic and we need two urgent innovative approaches to the sector (at least) to help continue our recovery: to completely forgive the Small Business Loans taken by so many of our colleagues as a way to weather the COVID-19 storm, and to actively encourage Canadians to actively participate in our culture – either for the first time, or to return.

Our Cultural workers are vital to the health and well-being of our communities and to our vision of Canada as a vibrant, attractive country both to live in and immigrate to. While we are resilient, the pandemic has exhausted us, and we need hope and forward thinking to revitalise the sector. While the following is from a NS report, its findings and recommendations may be applied across the country.

*"Our sector has suffered tremendous hardship throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last two years, we have seen drastic reductions to income, workforce, and wellbeing. The sector has endured repeated and prolonged closures, layoffs and terminations, the loss of highly professionalized staff, and alarming impacts on mental health. We were the first to shut down and will be the last to fully reopen. Federally, the sector has been categorized as “hardest hit.”

[While] the culture sector [has] greatly suffered as a result of COVID-19…culture [has] played an essential role in helping people through the pandemic…Perhaps now more than ever, we find ourselves in a moment where the public understands that culture is an intrinsic and necessary part of our daily lives.

…We believe culture must play an essential role in the province’s post-pandemic recovery plans.
Throughout the spring of 2021, the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council and Arts Nova Scotia partnered on an initiative to solicit input from the sector on how best to do this. Together, we facilitated conversations with nearly 200 stakeholders…These sessions focused not only on the challenges they faced and the issues that emerged during the pandemic, but also on how this sector could and should be harnessed to make Nova Scotia more vibrant, resilient, and inclusive."*

From the introduction to [Building Back Better: A Vision for Culture Sector Recovery in Nova Scotia (BBB)](http://weebly-file/9/0/0/6/90065401/building_back_better_-_a_vision_for_culture_sector_recovery_in_nova_scotia__1_.pdf)

Cultural workers who work with operating organisations in this country are rooted in our communities and dedicated to creativity and innovation for and with the larger community. We are an integral piece of making Canada stronger and ready for the future, but we need help and we need it now.

Our recommendations are not going to eliminate the entire effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation, but they will begin to pave the way for a revitalised, stable, and growing arts and culture sector. Together this will help us retain talent in the sector and mentor the next generation. This first step toward robust cultural investment will create a renaissance of cultural activity in the Canada and is vital for the health and social fabric and vision of Canada for the future.