



**CARFAC**  
ONTARIO

## 2021 Ontario Budget Consultations

**Submitted to:**

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy  
Minister of Finance

*Delivered by email*

**Submitted by:**

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February 11, 2021

Dear Minister Bethlenfalvy,

CARFAC Ontario is the association of professional visual and media artists in Ontario. Founded in 1968, we represent nearly 1000 artist members. We work to ensure that artists are accorded the same rights as other workers, and we contribute to building a stronger cultural infrastructure for the benefit of artists, and for all Ontarians who engage with arts and culture.

We appreciate the provincial government's response in supporting the sustainability of the arts and culture sector throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and we welcome this opportunity to provide constructive recommendations to ensure these strategies translate to the greatest possible impact. As such, we recommend that the Provincial Government, as part of Ontario's 2021 budget:

**1. Establish a \$10m fund specifically to support Indigenous artists and cultural leaders**

This fund will provide much-needed economic stimulation within Indigenous communities and will help to address the severe income disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists.

**2. Invest an additional \$25m annually at the Ontario Arts Council**

This funding should be provided to increase the Council's base budget, be directed at discretion of the Council with a focus on identified priority groups, not be restricted to major cultural institutions nor organizations, and be available to individual artists without whom major cultural institutions and organizations would be irrelevant.

**3. Create a high-access, rapid-response fund for individual artists and self-employed arts workers**

This fund should be open to artists and cultural leaders working in any discipline and prioritize those who identify as members of equity-seeking groups. Guidelines and eligibility criteria for this fund should be flexible to accommodate the diversity of artistic approaches, and the unique needs of individual artists and arts workers. The application process should be simple, online, with fast review and response times. Artists who receive Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program income supports should retain those income supports in full if they receive a payment through this fund. This fund is essential for restoring cultural production and subsequent economic activity.

**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS**

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**4. Invest in PPE and HVAC upgrades**

This investment should focus on small and mid-sized arts facilities. It will result in accelerating the return of tourism and the associated economic impact.

**5. Implement paid sick days for all workers**

Providing a minimum of 14 paid sick days per year is crucial to stop the spread of COVID-19.

CARFAC Ontario is committed to working with the Government of Ontario to provide further information regarding these recommendations, and other strategies so that Ontario's artists are able to survive the COVID-19 crisis, and are positioned to continue contributing significant social, cultural, and economic benefits for all Ontarians. Please consider us a partner as we come together to rebuild the sector.

Sincerely, -

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