



*As representatives of the dance sector in the country, we are sending you questions concerning your policies in culture, notable in dance, addressing the needs and priorities of our members. You will therefore find below a list of questions for which we would like your answers during this 44<sup>th</sup> federal electoral campaign.*

*Thank you very much for your attention, please do not hesitate to contact us with your responses*

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The Canadian Dance Assembly (CDA) exists to be the voice of professional dance in Canada. It advocates for a healthy and sustainable environment in which Canadian professional dance can flourish. CDA cultivates a strong national voice for Canadian professional dance and encourages the development of resources for the field. Through conferences, workshops and convening events, we bring the dance community together from coast to coast to build a strong and vibrant community.

The Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD) brings together and represents individuals and professional organizations working in dance, with the goal of promoting the advancement and influence of the choreographic art and contributing to the improvement of the conditions of dance practice.

### **For a more inclusive economic and social net for dance artists**

Given the uniqueness of self-employment for dance artists and the fact that it makes access to employment insurance difficult, if not impossible, will your political party :

- Decrease the hours required for eligibility for choreographic artists?
- Offer an intermittent program between their contracts or work seasons?

Dance artists are among the most vulnerable in culture and the pandemic period has demonstrated how their careers can be supported with a guaranteed income that allows them to focus on training and creating. The arts and culture sector has been one of the hardest hit by the pandemic and recovery is already expected to be slower in this sector.

- Does your party intend to extend income support programs such as the Canadian Economic Recovery Benefit (CERB), the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CWS) and the Canada Emergency Rent Grant (CERG)?



In the longer term, a Universal Basic Income could be developed on the basis of existing programs including the CERB. It would provide financial security that would meet the basic needs of individuals and allow them to participate fully in society by living with dignity, regardless of their employment status.

- Is your political party considering universal basic income for choreographic artists that will allow them to continue to develop their profession with dignity?

### **Inclusion and Equity**

The field of dance is one of the most inclusive cultural sectors in the world in terms of artistic, professional, cultural, gender and sexual orientation diversity, and visible and non-visible disabilities. Is your political party about to ensure:

- A continuum of programs that would support diversity, equity, inclusion and reconciliation initiatives in cultural organizations as well as in dance arts projects?
- Programs that recognize and value the artistic and professional diversity of dance?
- Criteria in programs that recognize the diverse backgrounds of dance professionals, especially those without institutional training?

### **Regional Development**

The art of dance is increasingly developing in the regions, with the unique characteristics of each region. Arts and cultural infrastructures also differ greatly in terms of accessibility and professional standards. Organizations or artists developing in the regions must also build their own ecosystems for creation, production, presentation and professional development. Given the regional inequities, the distance between regions and the fact that international touring may be slowed down and reduced for several years as a result of the pandemic, is your political party prepared to provide more funding to Canadian Heritage in particular in order to :

- Ensure that funding programs available at the federal level are also accessible to regional organizations?
- Modify funding programs so that these initiatives in the regions can continue to work in their multidisciplinary forms?
- Increase the programs available specifically to organizations working in the regions?



### **Mobility of artists in Canada**

In the wake of the pandemic, the dance network in Canada has realized more than ever how the network for presentation and creation in the country is limited to a few major cities. In order to allow dance artists more developed and distributed mobility across the country, will your political party :

- Increase the funding available to local infrastructures across the regions so that they can receive dance artists from across the country, both in creation and presentation?
- Make available funding programs that support the mobility of artists across the country so that they can create networks of touring or creation studios?