



canadian assemblée
dance dance
assembly canadienne
de la danse

Canadian Dance Assembly response to the 2024 Federal Budget

Canadian Dance Assembly would like to thank the federal government for its pledged ongoing support of Canada's cultural sector. We deeply appreciate the added \$31 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to the Department of Canadian Heritage for the *Canada Arts Presentation Fund* and the \$20 million over three years of funding proposed for *PrairiesCan*. These investments, even though temporary, are vital for the recovery of a sector that is still deeply struggling with ongoing impacts from the pandemic.

However, we are deeply disappointed and alarmed at the reaffirmed choice to reduce the Canada Council for the Arts funding, which should instead be strengthened as the sole support system of Canada's dance ecosystem during this crucial moment in time. Cuts to funding will undo the traction gained from earlier recovery investments and government effort intended to bolster the sector. For artists and cultural workers who are disproportionately affected by the current affordability crisis, this decision is more than discouraging, it is life-affecting.

The Government of Canada's response to this well-documented need, cutting nearly \$21 million to Canada Council funding over the next three years, is devastating to individual artists and arts organizations who depend on Canada Council funding to support their livelihoods and create the art that enriches Canada's domestic and international cultural vibrancy. Without the continued support of the arts, which this government has stewarded for decades, the arts sector in Canada will continue to erode and disappear. We see this beginning in rural communities from coast to coast, where federal funding is often the only accessible funding, and without it, the arts cannot survive.

The honourable Pascale St-Onge, in her allocution at the 38th Grand Prix du Conseil des arts de Montréal, said that we need art in society to prevent isolation and polarization behind screens. She rightly declared that the world is a better place when art reveals itself and reaches out to people. Communities with access to the arts are healthier and happier communities. But we need to give artists and the cultural workers who support them the means to do so. It is critical that we have a government who backs up their belief in the arts by providing artists and cultural workers the financial means to continue our long history of a flourishing arts sector.

As Canada purports to build a budget on fairness for the next generation, we ask that you make clear your support by ensuring that the performing arts sector continues to be an equitable and vibrant space for young Canadians to imagine prosperous futures.

Karla Etienne, Executive Director
karla@cda-acd.ca



As a national service organization committed to the highest level of advocacy and a voice for the sector, **Canadian Dance Assembly** exists to facilitate the dynamic exchange of information relevant to Canadian dance of all forms and aesthetics. CDA represents a membership of 600 dance organizations and, alongside our provincial partners, we have a total reach to a dance community of approximately 3000 arts workers.