

## Sandi Horning

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**Subject:** FW: Please note CKNW contacted me today to advise the funding freeze has been lifted-see attached clip plus we've been asked to comment  
**Attachments:** attachment1.mp3; ATT170714.htm  
**Importance:** High

**From:** Tracie Ward [mailto:TWard@rotarycentreforthearts.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2009 11:31 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Please note CKNW contacted me today to advise the funding freeze has been lifted-see attached clip plus we've been asked to comment  
**Importance:** High

The freeze is over! Excellent news. Congratulations to everyone for your part in a very effective advocacy campaign.

Tracie Ward

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**From:** Cheryl Ziola [mailto:executivedirector@bcacg.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2009 11:16 AM  
**To:** mrhall46@hotmail.com; Janet Farquhar; info@dchmed.ca; Jim Matson; Martha te Hennepe; barbaraarmstrong@shaw.ca; Shawn Bellamy; Shirley Rodrigaez; Siegfried Erb; Tom Fletcher; Tracie Ward; Peter Armstrong  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please note CKNW contacted me today to advise the funding freeze has been lifted-see attached clip plus we've been asked to comment

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Nafeesa Karim" <Nafeesa.Karim@corusent.com>  
**Date:** August 19, 2009 11:00:30 AM PDT (CA)  
**To:** <executivedirector@bcacg.com>  
**Subject:** Copy of clip

**Subject:** COMMUNITY GRANTS UNFROZEN CHNL HARRISON  
**From:** "Jim Harrison" <nnews@radionl.com>  
**To:** <burli@cknw.com>  
**Date:** Wed, 19 Aug 2009 08:30:29 -0700

COLEMAN GRANTS 1

THE ANXIOUS WAIT IS OVER FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WAITING FOR THIS YEARS GRANTS FROM THE B.C. GOVERNMENT.  
THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE, RICH COLEMAN SAYS A REVIEW IS COMPLETE, AND AS OF TODAY....THE FREEZE ON 159 MILLION DOLLARS IN GRANTS IS UNFROZEN.

<<attachment1.mp3>>

**From:** Arts Council [mailto:info@artsco.ca]  
**Sent:** August 11, 2009 2:21 PM  
**To:** info@artsco.ca  
**Subject:** Arts Funding Cuts - A Call for Support!

## **Hello Arts Council Members and Arts & Culture Stakeholders**

In response to potential cuts to arts funding in BC, please find attached to this e-mail, the Arts Council of the Central Okanagan's letter to BC's Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts.

Please also find below, "A Call for Support".

*Elke Lange*

Elke Lange, Executive Director  
Arts Council of the Central Okanagan  
Email: info@artsco.ca Website: www.artsco.ca www.okanganarts.com  
Tel: 250.861.4123  
100-1690 Water Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 8T8

THE SOCIALIZING PROCESS WITHIN THE ARTS COMMUNITY IS ITSELF AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY  
THE ARTS CONNECT WITH EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THE COMMUNITY AND NURTURE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH  
ART IS ENTERTAINMENT, RECREATION, LIFESTYLE, AND WORLD-VIEW  
THE ARTS INCLUDE ALL. THE ARTS INCLUDE YOU!

## **Arts Funding Cuts - A Call for Support**

**You likely have heard about the issue of potential cuts to arts funding in BC over the past few weeks.** These double-barreled cuts are centered currently on BC Arts Council annual grants, and Direct Access Funding from the Gaming Branch. No formal announcements have been made by BC Arts or Gaming: it is anticipated that the September 2 provincial budget may contain information.

This letter is coming to you from a task force drawn from concerned central Okanagan arts groups, a list of which is at the end of this email. We are getting in touch to ensure everyone is aware of these potential cuts and funding freezes and we encourage you and your organization to discuss this issue with your supporters, sponsors, donors, board members, artists and members of your local community.

**We hope that you will choose to advocate for the arts at this critical time.** Let your concerns be heard in a positive fashion, bringing a message of the strong economic and cultural impact the arts have on our communities and the province.

Many provincial arts groups have already expressed their concerns to their MLAs and to other government officials. Good, up-to-date information is available online at <http://www.allianceforarts.com>.

We ask your support in taking the message of your organization to your local MLA - if at all possible, in a face-to-face meeting, before the House sits again August 25. Clearly these funding issues affect many arts organizations in the province. To get more information on your local MLA, you can go to <http://www.leg.bc.ca/MLA>.

We feel it is vital to make the business case for continuation of funding - how many dollars does your organization contribute to your local economy; and what the impact is, both financial and cultural on your audiences and artists. The Alliance for Arts and Culture quantifies the provincial impact of the arts at 80,000 jobs and \$5.2 billion annually. You need to tell your financial and job story.

You can also encourage your organization to send a letter, and keep sending letters, talking about the impact of proposed funding cuts on your community by writing to pertinent elected officials. Office addresses on each elected official's web pages.

Arts - Minister Kevin Krueger - [Kevin.kruegermla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Kevin.kruegermla@leg.bc.ca)  
Gaming - Minister Rich Coleman - [rich.colemanmla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:rich.colemanmla@leg.bc.ca)  
Premier Gordon Campbell - [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

**Please forward this email, perhaps with a covering note, to your email list.** We know the government needs to hear from the groups and organizations impacted and they especially need to hear from the community itself - including individuals and businesses - that the arts matter to them.

We also ask you to respond to this email - either to the organization which sent it to you - or to [ArtsResponseOkanagan@shaw.ca](mailto:ArtsResponseOkanagan@shaw.ca), so that we can measure the reaction to this information and tell all MLAs and others about the ongoing awareness of this issue among BC Arts groups.

**Thank you - please react within the next two weeks.**

- PAK - Professional Performing Arts Alliance of Kelowna: Ballet Kelowna, Chamber Music Kelowna, Community Concerts Kelowna, Okanagan Symphony
- Arts Council of the Central Okanagan
- Rotary Centre for the Arts
- Okanagan Institute



# Arts Council OF THE CENTRAL OKANAGAN

PROUDLY SERVING Peachland, West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation,  
Kelowna, Joe Rich/Ellison & Lake Country

Hon. Kevin Krueger  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts  
121 - Parliament Bldg.  
Victoria, BC  
V8V 9E2

August 7, 2009

Dear Minister Krueger,

Re: Arts Council of the Central Okanagan (ARTSCO), advocating for Central Okanagan Arts and Culture

Founded in 1953, the Arts Council serves a wide interest and demographic area, ranging from children, youth groups, students, families. We support all areas of the arts, visual, literary, performing, media and music, as well as work with businesses, organizations and educational institutions.

ARTSCO is recognized by the Regional District of the Central Okanagan as a significant community team player in the development of the Central Okanagan Arts, Culture, Heritage and Tourism.

The Arts Council of the Central Okanagan believes that the Arts:

- Hold the community together
- Characterize the social environment in the community
- Foster individual and communal development
- Define and preserve the vision of a society
- Promote education and creative thinking
- Are the essence of creative production and problem solving
- Encourage communication
- Represent the spirit of the community
- Are the foundation of the culture of every society
- Make major economic contributions to our province
- Ensure a balanced society within a community
- Provides jobs

The proposed cuts to BC Arts Council Funding and the freezing of critical BC Gaming Funds for BC Arts and Cultural Organizations, is an economic development mistake.

The loss of these funds will immediately impact thousands of BC artists and other individuals whose livelihood depends on cultural sector income.

The loss of crucial income dependent on cultural tourism will negatively impact whole communities for years to come.

The Arts Council of the Central Okanagan receives \$18,000 annually through Gaming-Direct Access Grants, which is approximately 21% of its annual budget.

Direct Access Gaming funds support four key Arts Council programs. Not receiving this funding will gravely affect these programs and the thousands of individuals who depend on them. The four programs are:

### **1) The Arts Resource Centre:**

The Resource Centre provides valuable Arts and Cultural Event information, Local, Regional, Provincial, Federal and International Arts Resource Information, as well as support for emerging artists and groups. The Resource Centre is the place where arts, culture and community connect.

### **2) The Arts Advocacy Program:**

The Advocacy Programming promotes the arts throughout the Okanagan with its main focus in the Regional District of the Central Okanagan.

The Arts Council's two websites, ARTSCO and Okanagan ARTS are the cultural communities' virtual meeting space and bulletin boards. The websites provide valuable information regarding the cultural resources, community services, cultural events, background and contact information on local artists.

### **3) The Artscape Program:**

The Artscape Program promotes recognition that the arts are a significant component of our region and contribute to the public awareness about the quality and diversity of art created in our community. The program provides an educational experience for all ages and backgrounds, which helps to foster an interest in and a greater understanding of the artistic process and the place it has in all our lives.

### **4) The Honour in the Arts Program:**

- **Bursaries:** Have provided 33 years of financial support, artistic encouragement and artistic educational support for all ages. The Arts Council to-date has provided more than \$30,000 towards local bursaries.
- **The Okanagan Arts Awards:** Recognizes the importance the arts are in the development of a community, provides recognition on a regional level for outstanding achievement in the arts.
- **School Certificates:** Each year the Arts Council presents young students within the Regional School District #23 "Certificates of Achievement" for artistic academic achievement.
- **Civic Awards:** Each year, two annual awards are presented for outstanding volunteerism in Arts at the annual "Civic Awards" of the City of Kelowna; one is given to an adult and the other to a high school student.

### **Provincial Funding cuts will also negatively affect the Arts Council of the Central Okanagan/BC Arts Council -Co-Sponsorship Grants Program.**

Each year the Arts Council of the Central Okanagan provides financial support to local individuals and artist organizations for community art projects.

Over the past 5 years alone, the Arts Council of the Central Okanagan has invested over \$23,000 into the community through the co-sponsorship grants program.

### **Freezing or cutting back on critical provincial funding support for arts and culture will have a major negative affect on the economic well being of our communities.**

We ask that the Provincial Government take into consideration the important words of **Olga Ilich, Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts in 2006, Speech to Vancouver Board of Trade, March 13, 2006, which is attached to this letter.**

"What's particularly worth noting is that while the economy grew at an annual average of 2.3 percent between 1996 and 2001, the cultural sector grew at an annual rate of 4 percent. Arts and culture are growing faster than our more traditional industries. They deliver well-paying jobs, and it shows no sign of slowing down. We have almost 80,000 talented, creative individuals in our cultural sector, and we often fail to recognize the significant contributions these individuals make to building our cultural resources that so enrich our lives".

While your ministry reports on the various funds and amounts of dollars that been made available in the past to the Arts and Culture Sector, it would be important to ensure those amounts do not get reduced in any way if British Columbia wants to maintain a strong economy.

The funds made available to the arts and culture sector is minimal when compared to government spending to other sectors, especially when considering the vital contributions made by the Arts and Culture Sector to the economy of our province and the well being of our society.

For the sake of many jobs, economic activity and the well being of our communities, ***we request that you ensure your support for the arts and culture in our province is strong.***

Sincerely,

Elke Lange  
Executive Director  
Arts Council of the Central Okanagan

c/c: Premier Gordon Campbell , Gaming – Minister Rich Coleman, Norm Letnick, MLA Kelowna-Lake Country, Ben Stewart, MLA Westside-Kelowna, Ron Cannan, MP Kelowna-Lake Country, Mayor and Councillors-District of Lake Country, City of Kelowna, District of West Kelowna, District of Peachland, Alliance for Arts & Culture, Members of the Arts Council of the Central Okanagan, Arts Response Okanagan, Okanagan Institute

**Speech, Olga Ilich, Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts, Speech to Vancouver Board of Trade, March 13, 2006**

"I want to talk to you today mostly about the arts part of the ministry rather than tourism and sport, and I want to talk today about why the arts, culture and heritage part of the ministry is so important to the economic health of our province. Investment in art and culture is more than just a frill. It is more than hanging a pretty picture on the wall or going to listen to a musical concert.

Investment in art, culture and heritage is an important economic strategy, and that is because they represent key components in [building] strong, vibrant and culturally diverse communities that are capable of attracting and retaining the brightest and best creative individuals to live, work and play in our province. It is knowledge and technology that are driving the new global economy. It is these forces that are transforming our planet."

Tourism is one of the sunrise industries that will drive our province and our economy forward in the coming years, but it's this synergy between tourism, sport and the arts that will give us the biggest bang for our buck.

So just how important are our arts and culture sector economically and why does it make sense to increase our investment in this area?

It is a sector that has demonstrated remarkable and rapid growth. Total Canadian economic output for the sector was \$29 billion in 1996 — that's ten years ago — but by 2001 it had climbed to \$40 billion. That's a 37-percent increase in a five-year period, and I don't think you'll find many other sectors that performed as well.

And in that same period, B.C.'s economic output for this sector increased from \$3.4 billion to \$5 billion, and the proportion of the workforce employed in the cultural sector and the rate of growth of employment was higher in B.C. than the national average.

What's particularly worth noting is that while the economy grew at an annual average of 2.3 percent between 1996 and 2001, the cultural sector grew at an annual rate of 4 percent. Arts and culture are growing faster than our more traditional industries. They deliver well-paying jobs, and it shows no sign of slowing down.

We have almost 80,000 talented, creative individuals in our cultural sector, and we often fail to recognize the significant contributions these individuals make to building our cultural resources that so enrich our lives".