

Cultural policy platforms of Canada's major parties

The following chart provides a comparative overview of the specifics of the cultural policies and pledges of each of Canada's main political parties. Organizations like ACTRA and the Canadian Conference of the Arts have also requested more detailed responses on specific elements of cultural policy.

Specifics on copyright, a key cultural priority facing all parties, are sparse. The Conservatives promise to re-introduce the controversial bill C-32. The other parties promise legislation to balance the interests of consumers and creators. Everybody stays away from the iPod tax.

<p>Bloc Québécois Key elements of the Bloc's platform include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The transfer of all responsibility for cultural policy, including telecommunications, to Quebec ✓ A place for Quebec at international tables dealing with culture ✓ Income averaging for artists over a period of 5 years ✓ Increasing the budget of the Canada Council for the Arts to \$300 million <p>http://www.blocquebecois.org/dossiers/parti/plateforme.aspx p.40.</p>	<p>Conservative Party of Canada The Conservatives point to their record of support for the arts and repeat commitments announced in the 22 March budget. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Children's Artistic Activity Tax Credit ✓ Support to the Royal Conservatory of Music for a national examination program ✓ Support to the Canada Periodical Fund <p>http://www.conservative.ca/media/ConservativePlatform2011_ENs.pdf p. 42.</p>
<p>Liberal Party of Canada The Liberal's cultural commitments are well known and they include promises to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Double funding to the Canada Council for the Arts, bringing it to \$360 million over 4 years (a longstanding promise) ✓ Restore and increase \$25 million in funding to the Trade Routes and PromArt programs. <p>The Liberal Platform also speaks to the importance of CBC/Radio Canada to Canadian culture, promising stable and predictable funding to the Corporation.</p> <p>http://cdn.liberal.ca/files/2011/04/liberal_platform.pdf p. 62.</p>	<p>The New Democratic Party The NDP has published an ambitious program for arts and culture that speaks to the importance of the sector but lacks in specifics. They promise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To ensure Canadian TV and telecom networks remain Canadian-owned ✓ To refocus the mandate of the CRTC to promote and protect cultural industries ✓ Sustained funding for the Canada Media Fund and Telefilm and a targeted strategy for the promotion of domestic film ✓ Increased funding to the Canada Council for the Arts and income tax averaging for artists ✓ A new international arts touring program ✓ Matching grants for Canadian museums and historic buildings ✓ Strengthened public broadcasting ✓ A digital online culture service <p>http://www.ndp.ca/platform p.15.</p>