



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

AUG 29 2011

Ref: 146478

Mr. Greg Hollingshead, Chair
Mr. Michael Elcock, BC/Yukon Representative
The Writers' Union of Canada
200 - 90 Richmond Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1P1

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SEP - 6 2011

Dear Messrs. Hollingshead and Elcock:

Thank you for your letter of July 21, 2011, addressed to Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, and me, regarding funding for the British Columbia Arts Council (Council). As Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, responsible for arts and culture, I am pleased to respond on behalf of Premier Christy Clark.

I appreciate your thoughtful comments in support of the arts in general, and your recognition of the work the Province of British Columbia (Province) is doing to maintain funding for the arts during these uncertain economic times. As you mentioned, the Province is providing the Council with an additional \$6.75 million from the 2010 Sport and Arts Legacy, increasing the Council's program budget this fiscal to \$16.831 million. The additional funding provides the Council with the second highest level of funding in its history, and means that the Council can continue to deliver a full slate of programs to support the priorities identified in its 2009/2013 Strategic Plan. Along with providing support for individual artists and arts organizations in a range of disciplines, the additional funding will support innovative programs that encourage the creation of new works, enhance capacity in arts organizations, and create career training opportunities for the next generation of artists.

With respect to your comments on community gaming grants, I am pleased to advise you that, on July 11, 2011, Mr. Skip Triplett, a respected member of British Columbia's business and education community, was appointed to lead the Community Gaming Grant Review (Review). I appreciate the concerns caused by the need to reduce community gaming grants as a result of the impact of the worldwide economic downturn on the Province's deficit. A key goal of the Review is to identify options that create certainty and sustainability for non-profit groups and

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Ministry of Community, Sport
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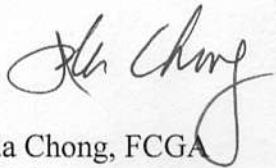
Mr. Greg Hollingshead
Mr. Michael Elcock
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charities. The Review will focus on the allocation framework and opportunities to optimize the use of, and proceeds from, community gaming revenues to better benefit families and communities across the province.

Mr. Triplett will be gathering input from stakeholders and members of the community from across the province, at community forums (schedule posted on the Review website) and through written submissions. The final report will be delivered by October 31, 2011, and I encourage you to provide input to this process and visit: www.communitygaminggrantreview.gov.bc.ca for further information.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Ida Chong, FCGA
Minister

pc: Honourable Christy Clark
Premier