

MEDIA RELEASE

Election Priorities of the AAAPNB

Arts and culture in the 2018 election

Moncton, September 11, 2018 – The *Association acadienne des artistes professionnel.le.s du Nouveau-Brunswick* (AAAPNB), an Acadian association of professional artists in New Brunswick, met with the political parties to share artists' requests in the 2018 New Brunswick elections campaign.

During these meetings, the AAAPNB advocated for four priorities that the arts, culture and heritage sector needs to continue contributing to, and increase its involvement in, the development of our province. "The parties have heard us, and our appeals for the arts and culture sector have been well received. We have noticed, however, that with two weeks to go before the elections, the parties are not showing sufficient commitment," explained Philippe Beaulieu, Chair of the AAAPNB.

The AAAPNB's asks in the 2018 elections campaign (www.aaapnb.ca/autresinitiatives/elections2018) are:

- That the government **recognize the profession of artist in New Brunswick**. To achieve this, it is imperative that we build on measures already undertaken by the Premier's Task Force on the Status of the Artist. This would make it possible to improve the socioeconomic conditions of artists, whose median income in 2011 was \$17,572.
- That the government **invest an additional five million dollars in arts and culture**. This much-needed amount would help finalize the implementation of the Cultural Policy, increase artsnb's Creation Grants, develop a book-buying policy and further integrate artists and their works in schools.
- That a **department dedicated to culture** be established to send a clear message about the importance of arts and culture, heritage and archeology in the development of New Brunswick both economically and socially.
- That the government **support the implementation of the Global Strategy**, renewed for 2018-2023. This updated roadmap allows, on the one hand, for the integration of arts, culture and heritage in all spheres of society, and, on the other hand, for various sectors to cooperate in harnessing the value of arts and culture for society.

The AAAPNB will share political parties' arts and culture commitments at the launch of the renewed Global Strategy, which will take place on **Tuesday, September 18 at 10:30 a.m.** at the Centre culturel Aberdeen in Moncton. According to Carmen Gibbs, Executive Director of the AAAPNB, "Arts and culture generate 543 million dollars in economic spinoffs in New Brunswick. The AAAPNB strongly believes that political parties must commit to putting forward our priorities. Should firm commitments not be made, we will conclude that it is for lack of vision."

The *Association acadienne des artistes professionnel.le.s du Nouveau-Brunswick* is an arts service organization that brings together professional artists. Its mission is to promote and defend the rights and interests of artists and to ensure recognition of artists' contribution to society. www.aaapnb.ca

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Information and interview requests

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