

Hon. David Eggen
228 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6

RE: AFA Artists and Education grant funding

Dear Mr. Eggen,

I am writing in concern of the funding to the Artists and Education grant provided by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

In 2015, the AFA received a 5% cut to its funding from the government. Internally, the AFA decided to cut funding to only two of its programs. The Artists and Education grant received a 50% cut, losing \$500,000 of its total \$1 million budget.

However, this year the AFA is receiving a \$5 million funding increase from the government. I strongly encourage you, in association with the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, to allocate these funds to reinstate funding to the Artists and Education grant.

Without this funding, approximately only 70 schools will be able to host a resident artist through the grant. In 2009, 264 residencies were approved with a budget of just under \$1.3 million. This grant offers students across Alberta the chance to work with professional artists directly in their school. Cuts to this program have the greatest affect on rural schools that are unable to afford hosting such programs due to large transportation costs.

I hope you contact Paul Pearson, Acting Executive Director of the AFA to ensure proper distribution of the funding increase to the Artists and Education program. He can be reached by phone at 780-907-5516 or by email at paul.pearson@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,