

## NDP Response: ACTRA

September 11, 2021

Eleanor Noble  
National President  
ACTRA

Dear Ms. Noble,

Thank you for reaching out to share the priorities of ACTRA for the federal election. We are pleased to have this opportunity to share our commitments with you.

New Democrats respect the very important role that arts and culture play in sharing our stories and helping us connect across vast distances and different identities. We recognize that this sector has been hit hard, not only by the COVID-19 pandemic, but by changes in the media landscape and years of government inaction. It's time for a different approach.

New Democrats will protect our heritage and support a strong, independent Canadian arts and culture industry. We will do what the Liberals failed to do and modernize the *Broadcasting Act* in order to create a level playing field between Canadian broadcasters and foreign streaming services, to rebalance negotiating power for Canadian independent producers and the Canadian cultural sector, and to ensure that Canadian programming is owned by Canadians. We will increase funding and ensure its stability for Canada's cultural touchstones, including CBC and Radio-Canada.

We will also step up to ensure that Netflix, Facebook, Google, and other digital media companies are playing by the same rules as Canadian broadcasters. That means paying corporate taxes, supporting Canadian content in both official languages, and taking responsibility for what appears on their platforms.

Recognizing that people who make a living in the arts and culture industry face a different reality, we will make life more affordable by putting in place income tax averaging for artists and cultural workers.

New Democrats believe that these provisions will help Canadian artists thrive, and enhance Canada's cultural identity for years to come, and we are also open to working with artists, broadcasters, and other industry representatives to review our copyright legislation and to improve it wherever possible.

Thank you again for reaching out and offering us this opportunity to share our commitments. We look forward to working with you to strengthen Canada's arts and culture sector following the election.

Sincerely,  
The NDP Team