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www.businessandartsnl.com

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Dear Minister Qualtrough,

Today, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the Federal Government will be delivering an aid package to help alleviate financial pressures on Canadians as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mention was made of a delayed tax deadline and direct income support for those who don't qualify for employment insurance.

This is the population of individuals we are most concerned about. According to 2016 census data, the median income of artists in Newfoundland and Labrador is \$24,700. Losing one, two, or three months of work as a result of social isolation measures could be catastrophic for these workers, many of whom provide essential, highly skilled services to our arts organizations, festivals, venues and galleries.

We are writing to ask you to please ensure that when this emergency legislation is passed, that these extraordinary measures deliver adequate benefits and are delivered as quickly as possible, to gig economy workers who don't qualify for employment insurance.

Thank you so much for your tireless work and leadership through this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,



Mark Dobbin and Noreen Golfman, Co-Chairs, on behalf of the Board of Directors of
Business and Arts NL

Margaret Allen, MA Consulting
Rob Blackie, Take the Shot Productions
David Bradley, Garrick Theatre
Kevin Casey, Cal Legrow Insurance
Alex Collins, Equinor
Eleanor Dawson, member at large
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