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Tuesday, March 17, 2020

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage
CC: Simon Brault, CEO, Canada Council for the Arts
Pierre Lassonde, Board Chair, Canada Council for the Arts

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you today regarding the financial fragility of arts organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Canada Council for the Arts has been doing an exemplary job of communicating with artists and arts organizations, being proactive and helping to assuage fears and anxieties around the devastating impacts of lost income and productivity as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

As you are working together to create supports to help stabilize this community, we ask you to consider the following protections:

Help protect organizations from financial ruin. Because many organizations have invested large amounts of their available assets into productions that will now not happen, or will happen much later, many organizations are facing serious financial stress. Without access to emergency funding, we will lose some of these key players in the artistic fabric of our province. We implore you to provide access to emergency funds, perhaps by temporarily repurposing and increasing funding to the "Limited Support for Endangered Arts Organizations" component of the Canada Cultural Investment Fund.

Ensure that current competitions for funding are adjudicated and awarded in a timely fashion. Many of our arts members have expressed concern that Core Funding decisions will be delayed or modified. Even as we all struggle to grasp the reality of our current global crisis, artists are already working to plan how to move forward. An understanding of their access to

funding will allow them to plan and create the artistic events that will bring us back together as a society once the all clear has been given.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Noreen Golfman". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a long vertical tail on the final letter.

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
Ron Ellsworth, Remax
David Hood, Grant Thornton

Amy House, Tyndrum Media and
Communications
David Maggs, Gros Morne Summer Music
John O'Dea, QC, McInnes Cooper
Mark Ploughman, Mark Ploughman Consulting
Theresa Rahal, Strategic Directions
Melissa Saunders, Cox and Palmer
Ian Sutherland, Memorial University