

Canadian orchestras are a vital and important part of Canadian communities, large and small: economic drivers, valued arts partners, part of the educational infrastructure, and builders of social cohesion and community pride.

Not only are Canadian orchestras artistic leaders, they are also leaders in their communities. Each year, hundreds of thousands of citizens across the country are touched and enriched by Canadian orchestras' efforts to supplement and enhance both basic music education and life-long learning. These programs take place in concert halls, schools, libraries, and elsewhere in communities of all sizes across Canada – and they range from orchestra-run music schools in Ontario's near-north through free church concerts in Vancouver's Downtown East Side to an innovative adaptation of Venezuela's famed El Sistema for at-risk elementary school students in Moncton, NB.

Enhanced federal investment in the arts over the past nine years has played an important role in helping Canadian orchestras serve more Canadians, diversify revenue streams, and increase Canada's profile internationally.

Strategic increases to key funding sources and programs, combined with an enhancement of tax incentives for certain charitable gifts, will ensure that Canadian orchestras can do even more, despite lingering challenges presented by the economy.

Our orchestras are among our best ambassadors to countries around the world. They help build our international reputation as a dynamic, prosperous, inclusive and fair society.

To achieve this vision, and to catalyze Canada's creative economy, during this election campaign, Canadian orchestras are asking all parties to commit to

- sustain and, over time, increase federal investment in the arts by an additional \$100 million annually through the Canada Council for the Arts; and
- acknowledge the role that Canadian artists and artistic innovation can play in enhancing Canada's international reputation, by embracing cultural diplomacy and investing in international market access and development initiatives that will bring Canadian artists and artistic innovation to the world stage; and
- implement a stretch tax credit to provide enhanced incentives for charitable giving. This enhanced tax credit (from 15% to 25% on gifts under \$200; and from 29% to 39% on gifts over \$200) would apply to donated amounts that exceed a donor's previous highest giving level, using 2009 as a baseline.