

albertaliberalcaucus

Kevin Taft | Team Taft | News | Policies | In The Assembly | Home

Policies

[All Policies](#) | [Hot Issues](#)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Future of Arts and Culture in Alberta

The long-term future of this province will be determined in the next few years. The Alberta Liberals want to deliver a government that puts arts and culture at the centre of that future.

Are the arts relevant? With Albertans, that discussion is done; arts and culture are relevant. The entire creative economy gets interwoven and interconnected to every facet of our lives. The art you walk by, the building you work in, the sounds on your i-pod, your kids' fridge art, your pottery class, even that high-tech worker (someone designed your favourite video game); all are a part of not just your life, but serve to elevate life from mere existence or subsistence to "Life"-with-a-capital-"L".

It is too bad we have to argue the economics of arts and culture, for the contributions are so many and varied - and worthwhile - as to permeate every aspect of our lives. To justify them on a dollar level seems beside the point. But for the bottom-liners, consider this from the Alberta Government's own arts information:

A recent Statistics Canada study (December 2004) measures the economic impact of the culture sector in the country and each province. Analysis for Alberta indicates that culture contributed \$4.3 billion to the province's economy in 2001.*

The Alberta Liberal Caucus doesn't take this quote and turn it against government support. We recognize it as an incredible chance to leverage a huge impact with relatively small cost. The arts are an engine of job creation and economic diversification. Every public dollar invested leads to many more dollars of economic activity. We also realize that whatever the economic multipliers for arts and culture, the economics of being an artist of any kind in Alberta are often deplorable.

The Alberta Liberal Caucus believes - without reservation - in what arts and culture bring to our society. We also recognize that the cultural sector is one of the most chronically underfunded and generally neglected parts of this province. That's why we would:

- 1) Immediately double the budget for the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and then consider a substantial further increase;
- 2) Review the operations and mandate of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts; and
- 3) Establish a \$500 million endowment fund for the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, parallel to existing endowment funds for medicine, engineering, and the sciences.

This province once tried hard to do the right thing, and it can again. If you believe that the next Ronnie Burkett (puppet master from Medicine Hat) needs a little encouragement; if you believe that another Glenn Nelson (gifted actor from Grande Prairie) could use a little support; if you believe that John Estacio and John Murrell's operas *Filumena* and *Frobisher* deserve to be seen; if you believe that Governor General Award winner Vern Thiessen's plays deserve to be heard; or even if you just know that your kid deserves to learn from professional theatre artists at ArtsTrek; then you need the Arts and Culture policies of the Alberta Liberal caucus.

If Alberta art and artists are good enough for the rest of Canada and the world, surely they deserve our fullest support. Personal support, corporate support for sure; but the Government of Alberta needs to show leadership in this regard. Or...Alberta needs a new government.



Kevin Taft, Leader

E-Newsletter

Podcasts

Contact Us

Caucus Calendar

- Sunday, 16 September 2007 11:00 a.m.
[Homeless Awareness Week Launch](#)
- Wednesday, 19 September 2007 7:00 pm
[Beyond the Shelter: Affordable Housing Forum](#)
- Saturday, 27 October 2007 10:00 a.m.
[Chat With Chase](#)

[View Calendar...](#)

Petitions - Help Your Fellow Albertans!

The Alberta Liberal Caucus has the power to present petitions to the government, urging them to take action on issues important to Albertans. Visit our [Hot Issues](#) section to view, download and sign a number of important petitions.

Alberta Horizons

Download Alberta Horizons, a new vision of Alberta an an opportunity to discuss the future of our province!
[Democratic Renewal and Governance](#)
[Economic Sustainability](#)
[Environmental Protection & Enhancement](#)
[Social Development](#)

Alberta's Opportunity: Funding Alberta's Future

Discover the Alberta Liberal Caucus' bold vision of perpetual prosperity for Alberta!

[Press Release](#)
[Alberta's Opportunity Brochure](#)
[Funding Alberta's Future Guide](#)
[Funding Alberta's Future Background \(spreadsheets\)](#)



Problems? [E-mail the webmaster.](#)
© 2007 Alberta Liberal Caucus