



**Canada Council for the Arts  
Funding to artists  
and arts organizations  
in the Northwest Territories,  
2008-09**



Canada Council  
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## 1.0 Overview of Canada Council funding to the Northwest Territories in 2008-09

- In 2008-09, the Canada Council for the Arts provided grants totalling \$204,105 to the arts in the Northwest Territories.
- In addition to grants, \$5,217 in payments was provided to 12 authors through the Public Lending Right program in 2008-09.<sup>1</sup> This brings the total amount of funding to the Northwest Territories to \$209,322.
- The Council distributed \$29,200 in funds to five artists and \$174,905 to seven Northwest Territories arts organizations in 2008-09.
- Grants were awarded to artists and arts organizations in the Northwest Territories in media arts, music, visual arts, and writing and publishing, as well as through the Aboriginal Arts Secretariat. In 2008-09, the largest amount of funding went to media arts (\$41,000), followed by writing and publishing (\$40,905) and visual arts (\$35,200).
- 28 applications from Northwest Territories artists and arts organizations were submitted to Council in 2008-09, representing 0.2% of the total number of received applications.
- Funding to artists and arts organizations in Fort Simpson totalled \$108,000 comprising 52.9% of the total funding going to the Northwest Territories. In 2008-09, Yellowknife received \$78,605, representing 43.9% of total funding. A total of two additional communities received \$6,500 in funds (3.1%).
- In 2008-09, Northwest Territories artists received 0.1% of Canada Council funding to artists, and Northwest Territories arts organizations received 0.1% of the funding to arts organizations. In total, Northwest Territories artists and arts organizations received 0.1% of Canada Council funding. In comparison, the Northwest Territories makes up 0.13% of the total population of Canada,<sup>2</sup> and 0.13% of Canadian artists.<sup>3</sup>
- Three artists from the Northwest Territories served as peer assessors in 2008-09, comprising 0.4% of all peer assessors.

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<sup>1</sup> The Public Lending Right program provides payments to authors whose books are held in selected Canadian public libraries.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada: Canada's National Statistical Agency. "Population by year, by province and territory," July 2008, <<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo02a-eng.htm>>.

<sup>3</sup> Hill Strategies Research Inc. "Artists in Canada's Provinces and Territories Based on the 2006 Census," *Statistic Insights on the Arts*, Vol.7 No. 5, March 2009, <[http://www.hillstrategies.com/docs/Artists\\_provinces2006.pdf](http://www.hillstrategies.com/docs/Artists_provinces2006.pdf)>.

## 2.0 Statistical highlights about the arts in the Northwest Territories<sup>4</sup>

- In 2006, there were 180 artists in the Northwest Territories, representing 0.71% of the overall territorial labour force.
- In 2006, the median earnings of artists in the Northwest Territories were \$20,100, one-half of the typical earnings of all provincial workers (\$40,000).
- In the Northwest Territories, the broader cultural sector has about 750 workers. That means that one in every 34 people in the territory has a cultural occupation.
- Over \$43 million was spent on culture by all levels of government in the Northwest Territories in 2006-07. Per capita cultural spending ranks first among provinces/territories in terms of the federal contribution (\$720) and second in terms of the provincial/territorial investment (\$231).

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<sup>4</sup> Sources:

Hill Strategies Research Inc. "Artists in Canada's Provinces and Territories Based on the 2006 Census," *Statistic Insights on the Arts*, Vol.7 No. 5, March 2009, <[http://www.hillstrategies.com/docs/Artists\\_provinces2006.pdf](http://www.hillstrategies.com/docs/Artists_provinces2006.pdf)>.

Statistics Canada: Canada's National Statistical Agency. "Government Expenditures on Culture: Data Tables 2006-07," <<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/87f0001x/2009001/part-partie4-eng.htm>>.

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### 3.0 Highlights of Canada Council grants to Northwest Territories artists and arts organizations

#### *Arts organizations*

The Canada Council supports the work of arts organizations. In 2008-09, some of the Northwest Territories arts organizations that received funding were:

Organization	Community	Total funding
Fort Simpson Aboriginal Arts Administrators 2008	FORT SIMPSON	\$50,000
Northern Arts & Cultural Centre	YELLOWKNIFE	\$7,000
WAMP Co-op	YELLOWKNIFE	\$27,000
Yellowknife Public Library	YELLOWKNIFE	\$8,905

#### *Aboriginal arts organizations*

The Canada Council supports the work of Aboriginal arts organizations. In 2008-09, some of the Northwest Territories organizations receiving funding were:

Organization	Community	Total funding
Goyatiko Language Society	YELLOWKNIFE	\$20,000
Native Communications Society of the NWT	YELLOWKNIFE	\$4,000
Open Sky Creative Society	FORT SIMPSON	\$58,000

#### *Examples of Canada Council funding in the Northwest Territories<sup>5</sup>*

The Canada Council supports the endeavours of professional artists and arts organizations through its programs. The following selection illustrates the scope of the activities supported by the Canada Council in the Northwest Territories.

First-time grant applicant and recipient **Karen Zaidan** of Fort Smith, N.W.T., was awarded **\$1,500** through the **Travel Grants to Professional Musicians** program to take part in the **Banff's Advanced International Voice Workshop** with Richard Armstrong, in August 2008. The ten-day workshop allowed musicians to explore new voice techniques in an open and understanding environment, focusing on vocal range, breathing techniques and individual creativity. With an opportunity to explore new dimensions within themselves, musicians were inspired to continue learning, creating, and teaching music. **Zaidan** noted the workshop was an excellent opportunity to encounter musicians on an international scale, and this experience will no doubt lead to future collaborations.

<sup>5</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, project descriptions and quotations are drawn from documents in the grant application.

The **Yellowknife Public Library (YPL)** received an **\$8,905** grant through the **Literary Readings and Festivals** program to assist the organization in hosting Canadian writers for a literary readings series in 2008-09. The only public library in Yellowknife, **YPL** is dedicated to bringing high quality and diverse artists to the Northwest Territories and exposing residents to the Canadian professional writing scene. During the literary series, authors such as Maxine Trottier, Dan Bar-El, and Julie Lawson were invited to share their work with local audiences through public readings, school visits, workshops, and bookselling events. The writers also visited libraries in Fort Smith, Hay River, and Fort Simpson as a means of making literature accessible to small and remote communities.

In 2008-09, **\$15,200** was granted to **Goota Ashoona** and **Joe Ashoona** of Yellowknife as part of the **Aboriginal Traditional Visual Art Forms Program** for individuals to create a whalebone carving program between Haida and Inuit carvers. As a multi-generational family who are greatly admired within the Aboriginal community, the **Ashoonas** promoted the program as a way to pay tribute to the strong artistic relationship between Inuit and Haida artists. The primary objective of the program was to establish an exchange of materials and resources between carving groups; however, the artists also taught school-aged Haida children Inuit carving techniques. The exchange was a unique opportunity for both groups to learn the artistic practices of another Aboriginal community.

**Open Sky Creative Society**, based in Fort Simpson, N.W.T., was awarded **\$14,000** through the **Media Arts Project Grants** program to present two major media arts programming components at the **Open Sky Festival** in June 2009. The Society's programming will feature artists whose work focuses on the Dehcho arts community and will consist of a week-long new media installation exhibition, as well as a formal video and film screening. Organizers of the **Festival** hope the initiative will allow the Dehcho community to interact with local and national artists from across Canada, thus exposing them to new and potentially unfamiliar art forms.

Yellowknife's **Tanya Gillis** received a **\$5,000** grant through the **Music** section's **Career Development Program** to assist in contracting **Mainstage Management Inc** to carry out several important professional development projects from January to June 2009. Over a short period of time, **Gillis** has created a remarkable body of work, as she has recorded and performed alongside some of the most notable artists in contemporary music. Over the next year, the artist plans to attend performances, showcases and networking events in Canada, the United States, and abroad to continue building an international profile. By participating in such events, **Gillis** hopes to create new touring and publishing opportunities, as well as enhance her portfolio as an internationally-recognized musician.

A grant of **\$7,000** was awarded to the **Northern Arts & Cultural Centre (NACC)** through the **Spoken Word and Storytelling Program** to present the fourth annual **NACC Festival of Stories** from May 30 to June 7, 2008 in Yellowknife. The **NACC** aims to encourage the development of performing arts from all cultural traditions and provide a venue in the N.W.T. for community and professional performances. Under the theme *Objects in the Mirror are Closer than They Appear: Storytelling Road Festival*, the Festival focused on the concept of journey as a unique story and featured storytellers from different Canadian regions and cultural backgrounds. For the storytellers and the audience, the event marked an important step towards enhancing spoken word in Northern Canada.



**Shad Turner**, a young choral conductor from Yellowknife, received **\$2,500** through the **Travel Grants to Professional Musicians** program to participate in the **Sarteano Choral Conducting Workshop** in Italy in August 2008. Over an eight-day period, the artists focused on strengthening the rehearsal and performance practices of music for chamber choirs, and presented their work in a community setting. For **Turner**, the workshop provided much-needed inspiration, programming ideas, and contacts for future collaboration projects – three elements critical to the success of choir conductors, especially for those in isolated regions. Most importantly, the program provided **Turner** with new insight into the importance of choirs within their communities, an aspect he hopes to apply to his work back home.

#### 4.0 Overall arts and culture funding in the Northwest Territories by all three levels of government<sup>6</sup>

- Arts and culture funding to the Northwest Territories from all three levels of government stood at \$43.4 million in 2006-07 (the latest year of overall data from Statistics Canada).
- Federal funding made up the largest share at 72% (\$31.3 million) with another 23% (\$10.0 million) coming from provincial sources. The remaining 5% (\$2.0 million) of total government expenditures to the Northwest Territories came from municipal sources.
- Federal government cultural funding to the Northwest Territories, totalling \$31.3 million, is primarily concentrated (98%) in two areas – broadcasting and heritage resources (historic parks/sites and nature/provincial parks). The remaining 2% of funding (\$630,000) is allocated to areas including film and video (\$106,000), literary arts (\$97,000) and multidisciplinary arts (\$259,000). In the comparable year (2006-07), Canada Council funding accounted for 1% of all federal cultural spending in the Northwest Territories.
- Between 2003-04 and 2006-07, federal cultural spending in the Northwest Territories increased from \$29.7 million to \$31.3 million (an increase of 5%). During the same period, Canada Council funding to the Northwest Territories increased from \$157,000 to \$214,045.
- The largest part of provincial government funding is concentrated in three areas – heritage resources, libraries, and multidisciplinary arts (98% or \$9.8 million). However, funding is also allocated by the provincial government to broadcasting (\$215,000).

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<sup>6</sup> Source:

Statistics Canada: Canada's National Statistical Agency. "Government Expenditures on Culture: Data Tables 2006-07," July 2009, <<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/87f0001x/2009001/part-partie4-eng.htm>>.

**Table 1: Government expenditures on culture, to the Northwest Territories, 2006-07<sup>1</sup>***(in thousands of dollars)*

	Federal	Provincial	Municipal	Total
Libraries	\$0	\$1,998	\$1,936	\$3,934
Heritage Resources	\$16,347	\$6,888	\$0	\$23,235
Arts Education	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Literary Arts	\$97	\$0	\$0	\$97
Performing Arts	\$63	\$0	\$0	\$63
Visual Arts and Crafts	\$37	\$0	\$0	\$37
Film and Video	\$106	\$0	\$0	\$106
Broadcasting	\$14,414	\$215	\$0	\$14,629
Sound Recording	\$10	\$0	\$0	\$10
Multiculturalism	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Multidisciplinary and Other Activities <sup>2</sup>	\$259	\$945	\$38	\$1,242
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,334</b>	<b>\$10,047</b>	<b>\$1,974</b>	<b>\$43,355</b>

<sup>1</sup>As a result of changes in methodology, data for 2006-07 should not be compared with data that were released prior to the revised 2003-04 data.

<sup>2</sup>Includes funding given to cultural facilities, centres, festivals, municipalities, cultural exchange programs and other activities.

**Table 2: Government expenditures on culture, to all provinces and territories, 2006-07<sup>1</sup>***(in thousands of dollars)*

	Federal	Provincial	Municipal <sup>2</sup>	Total
Libraries	\$40,287	\$948,277	\$1,706,431	\$2,694,995
Heritage Resources	\$958,861	\$687,014	\$105,691	\$1,751,566
Arts Education	\$19,344	\$127,648	\$0	\$146,992
Literary Arts	\$135,259	\$22,335	\$0	\$157,594
Performing Arts	\$226,502	\$211,762	\$40,332	\$478,596
Visual arts and Crafts	\$22,294	\$49,475	\$0	\$71,769
Film and Video	\$351,103	\$119,513	\$0	\$470,616
Broadcasting	\$1,758,860	\$174,898	\$0	\$1,933,758
Sound Recording	\$24,421	\$6,043	\$0	\$30,464
Multiculturalism	\$16,743	\$18,141	\$0	\$34,884
Multidisciplinary and Other Activities	\$158,599	\$192,293	\$532,873	\$883,765
<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$3,712,273</b>	<b>\$2,557,398</b>	<b>\$2,385,327</b>	<b>\$8,654,998</b>

<sup>1</sup>As a result of changes in methodology, data for 2006-07 should not be compared with data that were released prior to the revised 2003-04 data.

<sup>2</sup>Municipal spending is on a calendar year basis.

<sup>3</sup>Includes inter-governmental transfers of about \$429 million.

**Table 3: Government expenditures on culture \$ per capita  
by province and territory, 2006-07<sup>1</sup>**

	Federal	Provincial	Municipal	Total
Canada	\$113	\$78	\$72	\$263
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$93	\$107	\$26	\$226
Prince Edward Island	\$141	\$101	\$30	\$272
Nova Scotia	\$115	\$80	\$39	\$235
New Brunswick	\$92	\$82	\$37	\$210
Quebec	\$163	\$104	\$66	\$333
Ontario	\$106	\$55	\$81	\$242
Manitoba	\$72	\$110	\$47	\$229
Saskatchewan	\$48	\$117	\$90	\$255
Alberta	\$56	\$93	\$65	\$213
British Columbia	\$45	\$58	\$88	\$191
Yukon	\$593	\$526	\$25	\$1,144
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	<b>\$720</b>	<b>\$231</b>	<b>\$45</b>	<b>\$997</b>
Nunavut	\$308	\$203	\$41	\$552

<sup>1</sup>Per capita figures were calculated using information from Statistics Canada: "Table 1: Government expenditures on culture, by province or territory and level of government, 2006-07" (July 2009) and "Population by year, by province and territory, 2007" (July 2007).

Note: As a result of changes in methodology, data for 2006-07 should not be compared with data that were released prior to the revised 2003-04 data.

Includes funding to libraries, heritage resources (museums, historic parks and sites, nature and provincial parks), arts education, literary arts, performing arts, visual arts and crafts, film and video, broadcasting, sound recording, multidisciplinary and other activities.

## 5.0 Detailed tables of Canada Council funding to the Northwest Territories

### *Canada Council for the Arts funding to the Northwest Territories*

- From 1999-00 to 2008-09, Canada Council funding to the Northwest Territories increased, rising from \$97,900 to \$204,105, a significant increase of 108.48%.
- Grants to the Northwest Territories as a percentage of total Canada Council funding increased slightly from 0.10% in 1999-00 to 0.14% in 2008-09.

**Table 4: Canada Council grants to the Northwest Territories and Canada Council total grants, 1999-00 to 2008-09**

Fiscal year	Grant \$ to Northwest Territories	Canada Council total grant \$	Northwest Territories as % of total
1999-00	\$97,900	\$103,008,149	0.10%
2000-01	\$99,200	\$105,051,989	0.09%
2001-02	\$100,080	\$123,777,539	0.08%
2002-03	\$104,550	\$129,467,062	0.08%
2003-04	\$157,665	\$125,957,452	0.13%
2004-05	\$98,700	\$121,455,742	0.08%
2005-06	\$184,540	\$120,519,422	0.15%
2006-07	\$214,045	\$140,838,547	0.15%
2007-08	\$232,040	\$152,803,607	0.15%
<b>2008-09</b>	<b>\$204,105</b>	<b>\$145,639,343</b>	<b>0.14%</b>
<b>% Change</b>	<b>108.48%</b>	<b>41.39%</b>	

**Table 5: Canada Council grants to the Northwest Territories  
by discipline, 2008-09**

Discipline	Artists	Arts organizations	Total
50th Anniversary	\$0	\$0	\$0
Aboriginal Arts	\$0	\$78,000	\$78,000
Audience and Market Development	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Director of the Arts Division	\$0	\$0	\$0
Director's Office	\$0	\$0	\$0
Endowments & Prizes	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equity	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inter-Arts	\$0	\$0	\$0
Media Arts	\$0	\$41,000	\$41,000
Music	\$9,000	\$0	\$9,000
Theatre	\$0	\$0	\$0
Visual Arts	\$15,200	\$20,000	\$35,200
Writing and Publishing	\$5,000	\$35,905	\$40,905
<b>Total grants to Northwest Territories</b>	<b>\$29,200</b>	<b>\$174,905</b>	<b>\$204,105</b>
<b>Total Canada Council grants</b>	<b>\$23,300,742</b>	<b>\$122,338,601</b>	<b>\$145,639,343</b>
<b>Grants to Northwest Territories as a % of total Canada Council grants</b>	<b>0.13%</b>	<b>0.14%</b>	<b>0.14%</b>

**Grant applications from the Northwest Territories**

- Since 1999-00 the total number of grant applications from Northwest Territories artists and arts organizations has varied, ranging from 16 to 37. The Northwest Territories' percentage share of grant applications has varied between 0.10% and 0.23%. In 2008-09, the share of grant applications from the Northwest Territories to the Canada Council is slightly higher than both its share of population and share of artists – see Table 7.

**Table 6: Grant applications to the Canada Council from the Northwest Territories and total grant applications to the Canada Council, 1999-00 to 2008-09**

Fiscal year	Grant applications from Northwest Territories	Total Canada Council grant applications	Northwest Territories as % of total
1999-00	34	14,939	0.23%
2000-01	18	13,526	0.13%
2001-02	19	14,586	0.13%
2002-03	16	15,592	0.10%
2003-04	35	16,085	0.22%
2004-05	37	16,572	0.22%
2005-06	28	15,831	0.18%
2006-07	26	15,663	0.17%
2007-08	27	14,768	0.18%
<b>2008-09</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>15,305</b>	<b>0.18%</b>
<b>% Change</b>	<b>-17.65%</b>	<b>2.45%</b>	

These numbers include applications not assessed, deemed ineligible or transferred to another program.

**Northwest Territories – Various comparisons with other provinces<sup>7</sup>**

- The Northwest Territories ranks sixth in terms of its level of Canada Council grant funding on a per capita basis per province at \$4.71. The Northwest Territories' share of grant funding is slightly lower than its percentage share of grant applications but is slightly higher than both its share of population and share of artists.

Province or territory	per capita Canada Council Grant	% share of grant funding	% share of Canada Council grant applications	% share of population	% share of artists
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$3.21	1.12%	1.28%	1.52%	0.86%
Prince Edward Island	\$2.18	0.21%	0.30%	0.42%	0.34%
Nova Scotia	\$4.16	2.68%	3.04%	2.82%	2.67%
New Brunswick	\$2.88	1.47%	1.52%	2.24%	1.36%
Quebec	\$5.90	31.37%	32.04%	23.27%	21.54%
Ontario	\$3.73	33.13%	29.86%	38.81%	40.60%
Manitoba	\$5.24	4.35%	2.62%	3.63%	2.80%
Saskatchewan	\$3.47	2.42%	1.84%	3.05%	2.17%
Alberta	\$2.87	7.07%	7.34%	10.76%	8.68%
British Columbia	\$4.87	14.65%	15.99%	13.15%	18.49%
Yukon	\$15.45	0.35%	0.42%	0.10%	0.15%
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	<b>\$4.71</b>	<b>0.14%</b>	<b>0.18%</b>	<b>0.13%</b>	<b>0.13%</b>
Nunavut	\$7.53	0.16%	0.16%	0.09%	0.18%
Other	...	0.89%	3.40%	...	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>(Mean: \$4.37)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<sup>7</sup> Sources:

Statistics Canada: Canada's National Statistical Agency. "Population by year, by province and territory," July 2008, <<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo02a-eng.htm>>.

Hill Strategies Research Inc. "Artists in Canada's Provinces and Territories Based on the 2006 Census," *Statistic Insights on the Arts*, Vol.7 No. 5, March 2009, <[http://www.hillstrategies.com/docs/Artists\\_provinces2006.pdf](http://www.hillstrategies.com/docs/Artists_provinces2006.pdf)>.



**Table 8: Grant funding by community, Northwest Territories, 2008-09**

Community	Amount
FORT SIMPSON	\$108,000
FORT SMITH	\$1,500
HAY RIVER	\$5,000
YELLOWKNIFE	\$89,605
<b>Total – Northwest Territories</b>	<b>\$204,105</b>
<b>Total – Canada</b>	<b>\$145,639,343</b>
<b>Grants to the Northwest Territories as a % of total Canada Council funding</b>	<b>0.14%</b>

**Table 9: Detailed list of grants to individual artists  
in the Northwest Territories, 2008-09<sup>8</sup>**

Name	Community	Amount
<b>Music</b>		
Gillis, Tanya	YELLOWKNIFE	\$5,000
Turner, Shad	YELLOWKNIFE	\$2,500
Zaidan, Karen	FORT SMITH	\$1,500
<b>Visual Arts</b>		
Ashoona, Goota	YELLOWKNIFE	\$15,200
<b>Writing and Publishing</b>		
Fabian, Roy	HAY RIVER	\$5,000
<b>Total grants to individual artists, 2008-09</b>		<b>\$29,200</b>

<sup>8</sup> An individual artist may receive more than one grant in a given year. For example, an individual artist may receive a project grant and a travel grant.

**Table 10: Detailed list of grants to arts organizations  
in the Northwest Territories, 2008-09<sup>9</sup>**

Name	Community	Amount
<b>Aboriginal Arts Office</b>		
Fort Simpson Aboriginal Arts Administrators 2008	FORT SIMPSON	\$50,000
Native Communications Society of the NWT	YELLOWKNIFE	\$4,000
Open Sky Creative Society	FORT SIMPSON	\$4,000
Open Sky Creative Society	FORT SIMPSON	\$20,000
<b>Media Arts</b>		
Open Sky Creative Society	FORT SIMPSON	\$14,000
WAMP Co-op	YELLOWKNIFE	\$20,000
WAMP Co-op	YELLOWKNIFE	\$7,000
<b>Visual Arts</b>		
Open Sky Creative Society	FORT SIMPSON	\$20,000
<b>Writing and Publishing</b>		
Goyatiko Language Society	YELLOWKNIFE	\$20,000
Northern Arts & Cultural Centre	YELLOWKNIFE	\$7,000
Yellowknife Public Library	YELLOWKNIFE	\$8,905
<b>Total grants to arts organizations, 2008-09</b>		<b>\$174,905</b>
<b>Total grants to individual artists and arts organizations, 2008-09</b>		<b>\$204,105</b>

<sup>9</sup> An arts organization may receive more than one grant in a given year. For example, an arts organization may receive a project grant and an operating grant.