



# Keeping in Touch

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London West



## THE CBC AND CANADIAN CULTURE

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### Dear Friends,

Canada's culture and heritage, shaped by our diversity, deserves to be celebrated and shared. During the 2015 election campaign it was clear that there was tremendous support in London West for the Friends of Canadian Broadcasting "We Vote CBC" campaign.

CBC/Radio-Canada is an anchor to our cultural and creative industries, and a vital national institution that brings Canadians together, promotes and defends our two official languages, and supports our shared culture. Previous cuts to its budget has jeopardized our national broadcaster's ability to do this important work.

**We promised we would reverse cuts to CBC/Radio-Canada and invest in new annual funding to be delivered in consultation with the broadcaster and the Canadian cultural community.**

I am pleased to inform you that Budget 2016 was the beginning of investments which will allow long-term sustainability for the CBC/Radio-Canada. The Minister of Canadian Heritage will work with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation/Radio-Canada to develop a five-year accountability plan. The Budget proposes to invest \$675 million to disseminate and support world-class Canadian content and to provide Canadians with better access to programs and services in the digital era. This investment includes \$75 million in 2016-17, followed by \$150 million per year over the next 4 years.

An independent CBC/Radio-Canada continues to adapt to the changing broadcast landscape and is transforming the way it engages with Canadians—providing us with high-quality relevant content how, where and when Canadians want it. To remain relevant and successful, CBC/Radio-Canada needs to invest in new multi-platform content and more innovative programs. Restored funding will also support investment in enhanced services, such as the digitization of archives.

**These reinvestments are already being seen in London where the CBC announced on April 25, 2016 that they would be expanding their local presence with a morning program and a local news website.**

This Government is reinvesting and re-engaging with the CBC/Radio-Canada and will be working with it as it develops a new vision, mandate and accountability plan to ensure the institution's long-term sustainability.

## **Investing in Arts and Cultural Organizations**

Our cultural industries represent a key sector of our economy and the intersection of art, science and technology offers infinite opportunities to innovate and problem solve. Investing in the Canadian cultural sector helps to create jobs, strengthens the economy and ensures that the unique Canadian perspective is shared with the world. Measures included in Budget 2016 will support important national institutions, safeguard our two official languages, and promote industries that highlight Canada's culture by investing \$1.9 billion over five years.

These investments include:

- \$168.2 million - Canada Cultural Spaces Fund over 2 years
- \$675 million - CBC/Radio-Canada to support content and improve access and services in the digital era
- \$550 million - Canada Council for the Arts over 5 years
- \$22 million – Telefilm Canada
- \$13.5 million - National Film Board of Canada
- \$35 million – to promote Canadian culture and creativity on the world stage, in particular as Canada approaches the 150th Anniversary of Confederation.
- \$105.9 million – Canada's National Museums over 5 years

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