Flat-lined but Still Alive
Overview of the 2012-13 Provincial and Territorial Budgets from the Perspective of the Arts and Culture Sector

Presentation to Cultural Human Resources Council
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Outline of presentation

• Economic, political and social context of the 2012-2013 Budgets
• Cultural industry impacts
• Arts impacts
• Heritage impacts
• Reaction to Budgets by cultural community
• Trends and implications
Economic context

• Deficit reduction - priority in Ontario, Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia

• Negative fallout from federal Budget cuts - Manitoba, PEI and the Territories

• GDP growth and per capita support for culture – little correlation
Political and social context

• **Québec** - student unrest and corruption
• **Saskatchewan and Alberta** - crime and housing shortages
• **Yukon and Nunavut** - youthful populations and erosion of traditional ways of life
• **New Brunswick** - lower literacy rates and incomes
• **Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia** — promotion of creative communities
Cultural industry impacts - cuts

- **Saskatchewan** – Film Employment Tax Credit
- **Ontario** – minor cuts to Ontario Media Development Corporation, TV Ontario, tax credits for audiovisual and publishing industries
- **Newfoundland and Labrador** – minor cut to NL Film Development Corporation
- **PEI** – elimination of subsidy to book publishers
Cultural industry impacts - increases

- **Nova Scotia** – new Digital Media Tax Credit
- **Alberta** – small increases - Alberta Film Commission and Alberta Media Development Fund
- **Québec** – small increases - SODEC and Télé-Québec
- **British Columbia** – 10% increase in BC Film Commission budget
Arts impacts - cuts

• Québec – arts council « flat-lined »
• Ontario – arts council and Trillium Foundation « flat-lined »
• Ontario - cuts to Art Gallery of Ontario and McMichael Canadian Art Collection
• Newfoundland and Labrador – small cut in arts council budget
• Alberta – downward trend in lottery funding for the arts
Arts impacts - increases

- **Québec** - Place des arts de Montréal and Grand Théâtre de Québec budgets increased
- **PEI** – *PEI 2014 Fund* introduced
- **BC, Yukon and Québec** – tax credits for children’s arts activities introduced
- **Saskatchewan** – Active Families Benefit increased by $3 M
Heritage impacts - Cuts

• Québec
  National museums, Conseil du patrimoine, Centre de conservation

• Ontario
  Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario Science Centre, Science North, Royal Botanical Gardens, Ontario Heritage Trust

• Newfoundland and Labrador
  The Rooms, Heritage Foundation, Cultural Economic Development Program (Heritage) and Provincial Historical Commemorations Program

• Manitoba
  Historic Resources Grants
Heritage impacts - Increases

• Alberta – Increases to:
  – Historical Resources Foundation
  – Royal Alberta Museum
  – Royal Tyrell Museum
  – Glenbow Museum
  – Historic Sites and Other Museums
  – Provincial Archives
  – $180 M for new provincial museum

• Yukon – Increases to:
  – Heritage Resources budget
  – Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre
  – Capital investments in territorial archives
Reaction to the Budgets

1. Guarded optimism

- **Manitoba** – Apprehensive about effect of federal budget cuts
- **Québec** – Concern about freeze to budget of the Conseil des arts et des lettres
- **Nova Scotia** – Encouraged by province’s commitment to creative economy
- **New Brunswick** – Hope that current Cultural Policy Renewal exercise will increase support
- **PEI** – Happy to take advantage of *PEI 2014 Fund*
Reaction to the Budgets

2. Weary resignation

- **British Columbia** – Making the best of it
- **Alberta** – Adopting community-friendly discourse
- **Ontario** – Muted relief
- **Newfoundland and Labrador** – Hope that cuts are a temporary set-back
- **Territories** – “Wait and see” attitude to impact of federal Budget cuts
Reaction to the Budgets
3. Overall negativity

• Saskatchewan
  – Widespread protest against the termination of the Film Employment Tax Credit
  – Concern about a flight of talent
  – Skepticism re: increase in the Active Families Benefit for arts activities
Trends and implications

• General concern about impact of deficit reduction
• Optimism re: growing emphasis on economic prosperity and community-friendly initiatives
• Concern that lack of statistical data may hinder future assessments
• Trend toward indirect support for culture through measures such as tax credits for children’s arts activities and special funds to mark significant anniversaries
Thank you!

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