



CREATIVE  
NOVA SCOTIA  
LEADERSHIP  
COUNCIL

2012-2013  
Annual Report

## **Letter to the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage**

The Honourable Leonard Preyra  
Minister  
Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage  
Province of Nova Scotia

Dear Minister Preyra:

I am pleased to present the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council's Annual Report. This report documents the work of this council and its accomplishments achieved from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013.

The past year has been a busy one. The research, writing and release of "Culture: Nova Scotia's Future" captured several years of work by Council on critical issues pertaining to the culture sector and offers key recommendations to government to help guide the development and growth of the sector and this province's economy.

The establishment of The Film and Creative Industries Agency was also a major highlight for the sector. The agency will help foster a better understanding by government of the cultural industries sector, offer a voice for the business side of the arts, facilitate government investment in the sector and enable strategic development of the sector, thereby furthering its economic impact.

The arrival of Arts Nova Scotia and the hiring of its first Executive Director established the new body responsible for funding to artists and arts organizations. More than an arms-length funding agency, Arts Nova Scotia is an important voice for the sector and joins Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council and Film and Creative Industries Nova Scotia in facilitating ongoing collaboration between the sector and government.

During the year CNSLC stepped up its outreach initiatives meeting with several provincial arts organizations, key government departments and various cultural communities. As part of its monthly Council meetings, organizations were invited to meet with Council and discuss issues pertinent to their respective membership. These meetings offered Council the opportunity to develop a solid relationship with various government departments and many key organizations supporting the arts in the province while achieving a better understanding of issues that impact on the cultural diversity of the province. It is CNSLC's intention to continue these types of meetings in the future.

Council was very pleased with the announcement by Communities, Culture and Heritage Minister Leonard Preyra and Nova Scotia Provincial Lotteries and Casino Corporation Acting President and CEO Robert McKinnon of a 2 million dollar annual investment in the sector. This represents a major accomplishment for the sector and a substantial ongoing commitment by government in support of Arts and Culture in Nova Scotia.

As The Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council wraps up its second year of operation, we are already looking to the future and beginning to explore the development of a province-wide, sector strategy. Our objective will be to lead a process that will bring many voices together, including from our diverse and ethnic communities, and map the way for the sector and government in establishing Culture as the fourth pillar for Nova Scotia's economic and social prosperity.

On behalf of Council members, I want to thank CCH staff, Deputy Minister Laura Lee Langley, Minister Preyra and our sector members who continue to work tirelessly to make Nova Scotia a vibrant and inspiring place to live!

Sincerely,



Ronald Bourgeois  
Chair

## **Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council Vision and Mission**

The Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council reflects a broad representation of the arts and culture sector in Nova Scotia. The council is a primary advisor to the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, the department and government on issues related to the arts and cultural industries in Nova Scotia. The council will also lead development of a provincial culture strategy to unlock the potential of Nova Scotia's creative economy and support the underlying purpose and intention of the new Status of the Artist legislation.

### **Our Vision**

Nova Scotia is a place where arts, and cultural expression through the arts, thrive; where artists are respected and valued; and where each person has the opportunity to participate in and celebrate the arts.

### **Our Mission**

Provide leadership to the Nova Scotia government for the development of policy that elevates the arts and artists, and promotes artistic activity.

### **Our Values**

- Creativity
- Arts and the Artist
- Excellence
- Growth and Development
- Inclusion
- Partnership & Collaboration
- Transparency

## 2012-2013

### Council Members

The CNSLC has 15 members, 13 of which are designated for volunteers from the arts and culture sector and two seats are occupied by representatives from within government. An additional non-voting seat is reserved for a member of Arts Nova Scotia. Sector members are volunteers who are very active in their communities, developing and promoting the benefits of a healthy arts and culture sector. Members bring a wide range of experience and an enthusiasm to their work for the benefit of our artists, filmmakers, musicians, writers and others.

**Ronald Bourgeois**, Halifax. Award-winning Acadian singer-songwriter, event manager, writer and television and radio producer. *Ronald is the Chair of the CNSLC.*

**Paula Davis**, Port Hawkesbury. Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre marketing and events manager. *Paula is Vice-Chair of the CNSLC.*

**Scott Simpson**, Halifax. Writer, director and producer of film and television and runs his own production company Playmaker Films. *Scott is Secretary of the CNSLC.*

**Chris Ball**, Liverpool. General Manager of the Astor Theatre, the oldest performing arts venue in the province, and also the past chair of the Atlantic Presenters Association.

**Terrilee Bulger**, Halifax. Publisher for The Acorn Press and sales and marketing manager for Nimbus Publishing.

**Fiona Diamond**, Halifax. Vice-President with Brookes Diamond Productions and co-producer of Nova Scotia's internationally-acclaimed musical spectacular, DRUM!

**Gerald Gloade**, Millbrook. Mi'kmaq visual artist, carver, storyteller and cultural educator. Gerald works with the Department of Education as a Program Development Officer. *Gerald served as a member of the CNSLC from 2012-2013.*

**George Klass**, Wallace. Business and management consultant and also a freelance photographer. George is also past president of The Northumberland Arts Council.

**Mary Jane Lamond**, Glendale. Internationally renowned musician who is dedicated to maintaining Gaelic culture for future generations.

**Mary Elizabeth (M.E.) Luka**, Halifax. Full-time doctoral candidate and digital media producer and director. *M.E. is an ex officio member as Vice-Chair of Arts Nova Scotia.*

**Jamie MacLellan**, Halifax. Practicing painter and works for the Halifax Regional Municipality as public art facilitator.

**Marcel McKeough**, Halifax. Executive Director of the Culture and Heritage Development Division, Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. *Marcel is a member of the executive Committee of the CNSLC.*

**Jim Morrow**, Port Williams. Artistic Director and resident designer of the Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia. *Jim served as a member of the CNSLC from 2006-2012.*

**Maria Osende**, Halifax. Dancer, choreographer and dance instructor, as well as the founding Artistic Director of Maria Osende Flamenco Company and Atlantic Flamenco Productions.

**Charlie Rhindress**, Halifax. Experienced actor, writer and director in theatre and film and is Artistic Producer of Eastern Front Theatre. *Charlie served as a member of the CNSLC from 2011-2013.*

**Linda Ross**, Lunenburg. Freelance photographer and member of the Nova Scotia Volunteer Community Advisory Council. *Linda served as a member of the CNSLC from 2006-2012.*

**Devon Strang**, Sydney. Promotes arts, entertainment and events in Cape Breton and is an accomplished musician as well as Marketing Manager for Celtic Colours International Festival. *Devon served as a member of the CNSLC from 2009-2012.*

**Peggy Tibbo-Cameron**, Halifax. Director of Research and Government Relations with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. *Peggy is a member of the Executive Committee of the CNSLC.*

**Susan Tooke**, Halifax. Visual artist and writer and president of CARFAC Maritimes: Canadian Artists Representation Le Front Des Artistes Canadiens.

## Committees

Council is divided into committees who, under the guidance of the executive and council as a whole, strive to carry out council's priorities in a timely and efficient manner. Committees meet and work independently and provide support to each other, according to their specialty and skill set, as needed. Communications continuously flow within council, between members and committees

The committees and their responsibilities are:

**Executive** administers and coordinates the activities and projects of the council and ensures that decisions taken at council meetings are acted upon in a timely manner.

**Communications** undertakes communications planning.

**Outreach** undertakes community outreach and partnership planning and activities.

**Creative Economy** formed to research the creative economy and assist the council to bring recommendations to government.

**Nominating** ensures a high quality of human resources to serve the CNSLC and advance the council's mandate. Doing a good job will provide the CNSLC with continuity of leadership, expertise and stability.

**Policy and Planning** identifies and leads council's organizational planning functions.

**Cultural Tourism** identifies issues and opportunities pertaining to cultural tourism.

**Program Review** reviews and makes recommendations on arts and culture programs and prizes administered by the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage

**Strategic Planning** advises Council on possible next steps regarding government engagement with the sector as it pertains to the culture sector strategy.

**Status of the Artist** formed in response to government's five point plan for arts and culture in order to enact Status the Artist legislation.

**Endowment Fund Committee** formed in response to calls from the sector to build an endowment fund for arts and culture organizations.

## 2012-2013

### Priorities and Accomplishments

In 2012 the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council developed a strategic plan in order to fulfill its role as the Province of Nova Scotia's primary advisor on arts and culture and to represent the interests of the arts community. The priorities generated reflect government's five-point plan for supporting achievement of creative excellence and growth of the creative economy, more commonly known as the five point plan for arts and culture, which was announced February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Projects are reviewed at monthly Council meetings where the entire Council has opportunity for input and will, as required, provide guidance to committee's and set new targets and guidelines as well as approving project completion.

Work on the priorities established in 2012 throughout 2012-13 includes:

#### I) Status of the Artist Legislation

The government of Nova Scotia passed Status of the Artist legislation May 17, 2012 following collaboration with the CNSLC to consult the arts community and draft terms of the legislation. Work was led by a committee comprised of then CNSLC Vice-Chair Jim Morrow, three members of NS arts community, Barbara Richman, Peter Dykhuis, Anthony Black, and the executive director of Culture and Heritage Development Marcel McKeough. The core focus of the legislation is

1. for government to recognize and reaffirm value and importance of arts and culture in Nova Scotia society.
2. to define what constitutes a professional artist.
3. to Acknowledge government commitments to Nova Scotia artists.

Work continues to advance the Status of the Artist legislation through a newly formed joint-committee of representatives from the CNSLC and Arts Nova Scotia.

#### II) Creative Economy Emphasis

In March 2013, the CNLC launched the report *Culture: Nova Scotia's Future* which provides government recommendations on approaches to develop Nova Scotia's creative economy. The report is the foundation of the CNSLC's response to the province's five point plan which tasked the CNSLC to provide a voice for the arts to dialogue with government and lead the development of a strategy for Nova Scotia's culture sector.

*Culture: Nova Scotia's Future* was preceded by jurisdictional review, completed in the previous fiscal year, and work of "Pillar committees" to establish priorities for development of the creative economy. The council is appreciative of the contributions of Terrilee Bulger and Nimbus Publishing for printing and editing of the report, as well as all of the council members who helped develop the report.



### III) Outreach

Council engaged in numerous discussions in 2012-13 in order to foster and develop bi-lateral communications with government and the arts and culture communities. The council's signature event, the Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala, was transformed in 2012 into the Arts Awards Celebration event at Halifax Brewery Market. The event was dressed down but reenergized, bringing in artistic director Anthony Black in order for the council to host over 250 sector members and supporters from around the province to celebrate success and the presentation of the Province's to arts prizes.

The council also continued the direction of \$10,000 towards the Nova Scotia Talent Trust in order to provide scholarships which now bear the council's name.

Over the course of the year the council participated in cross-Canada Culture Days planning and provided government with recommendations to changes to its Operating Assistance to Cultural Organizations Program as well as its Fair Notice policy following extensive discussion with the sector.

Groups whom the council met with in 2012/13 include:

- Nova Scotia Tourism Agency
- Interdepartmental Committee for Arts and Culture
- Centre for Arts Tapes
- Music Nova Scotia
- Film and Creative Industries Nova Scotia
- Tim Bernard Director of History and Culture for The Confederacy of Mainland M'ikmag
- New Glasgow arts community.
- Nova Scotia Commission on Building Our New Economy

### IV) Communications

A primary communications initiative in 2012/13 was to spread the word about the Culture: Nova Scotia's Future report. The report was presented to Leonard Preyra, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage prior to a public launch at the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design's Growing a Creative Economy conference. The document was also presented to the Deputy Minister for the Department of Policy and Priorities, the Greater Halifax Arts Coalition, the Nova Scotia Commission on Building our New Economy, and in numerous other discussions across government and with partners.

In addition to the Arts Awards Celebration held in October, the CNSLC, Arts NS and the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage also presented an event to discuss culture funding which included Kelly Hill, President of Hill strategies to speak about interpretations of national arts funding statistics and audience development trends.

Council worked with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage to redefine its visual identity of the council and to launch a more engaging website and continued to actively post on *facebook* about sector success stories.

**V) Arts Endowment Fund**

The establishment of a public, arm's length, Nova Scotia endowment fund for the arts remains a priority recommendation from the CNSLC to government. The CNSLC's past work to research best practices for endowment funding continues to serve as the basis of the CNSLC's recommendations. The CNSLC has more recently established a working relationship with Arts Nova Scotia to discuss the project in partnership with provincial and federal officials.

**VI) Cultural Tourism**

In 2012-13 the CNSLC met with the new Nova Scotia Tourism agency to speak about the interrelatedness of tourism and culture. The council hopes to continue talks in upcoming year.