
From: Soaring Tortoise <info soaringtortoise@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 4:53 PM
To: Jennifer Franki-Smith
Subject: Lotteries Act

I believe the lotteries act should be amended to include allocation of some of the funds to go towards the arts. I think this funding should be managed by arts organizations, not recreation associations.

I don't believe the current funding structure is equal across the two disciplines because sports and recreation are provided ample indoor heated space at a highly subsidized or free cost. (at least in yellowknife). As a member of the arts community in Yellowknife for 10 years and someone who has direct experience accessing funding available for arts organizations, although the dollar amounts for sport and arts may appear to be similar, much of the grants that are awarded to those participating in the arts is spent on renting space. As the cost of rent in Yellowknife is very high, the percentage of funding spent on space is significant leaving a much smaller margin for art supplies and production.

I don't know if it is relevant to the act, but I think that some of the money from lottery sales should be set aside to create a permanent space for artists, something sports and recreation already has. If putting the money towards a permanent space is not an option, I do think it's fair to allocate some of this money towards the arts.

I agree that there is lot of sound documentation supporting sports and recreation as helping the physical and mental well being of people in the north. Art, however has a huge impact on mental health that cannot be ignored. In terms of celebrating aboriginal culture and bringing different social classes together arts is a unique tool for this purpose.

Having a permanent arts space is not something people in the north have, unlike the sports organizations. Having a community space for the arts encourages collaboration across different disciplines and the solidification of a strong arts community. This is something people are able to achieve in sports because they have a space to assemble, we need this for people in the arts as well to create an arts community.

According to stats canada, people living in the NWT have the highest mean income of anywhere else in Canada. Why are we not investing more resources back into the community? Arts is one of many social programs that deserves our attention.

Please take my vote to change the lotteries act to include art as recipient of a portion of the proceeds.

Jazmine Gardner
867-446-4433