

Questions and Responses to Questions Posed by the Artists Run Community Centre
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Q1. What do you believe is the role and responsibility of the creative occupations of arts and culture in a healthy, vibrant, and economically viable community?

A1. The creative occupations of arts and culture provide an important balance in society. Ensuring the creative spirit is alive helps with education of youth and growth of society into a complete community. The arts add a significant sense of self and community while the cultural areas are important to every society. In the NWT the cultural learning of our citizens is extremely important for us to develop and continue as a cohesive group.

Q2. Have you have read the NWT Arts Strategy and what are the three most significant points about the strategy you support?

A2. Yes, I have ready the 2004 strategy, the 2006 ICI/ECE update and the 2007 Action Plan 2.

As a forwarding comment, the Strategies and Action plans tend to focus on what government can do. I believe the heart of the cultural arts industry is embodied in the work of the artists, individually and collectively. The recognition and celebration of the Arts is achieved through artists themselves and the organizations created to further their work. The North has a vibrant arts community. There are many models including the local YK Guild of Arts and Crafts, which is the centre of a vibrant community that is self-sustaining and operates from its purpose-built dedicated facility. The dedicated purpose built facility came only after the organization had built a strong membership and programs.

The most significant points put forward in the Arts Strategy document are:

- Those relating to building capacity within the art community to be self-organizing and self-funding (for example, establishing a foundation, or the government purchase and display of art)
- The development of an Aurora College Arts program
- Further Enhancement of Arts programming and curriculum in schools

Q3. Do you support the creation of a permanent arts centre in the NWT? And if so,

- How soon can this facility be opened?
- Who should pay for its creation and upkeep?
- Where should it be located?

A3. I do support the creation of a permanent arts centre however; the timing and funding still present significant hurdles. To begin with, the inclusion of prominent display

space within public buildings and spaces could provide sites to display the Artists work today. In the short term, I believe efforts need to be concentrated in bringing the NWT arts community together such that a strong, vibrant and visible organization exists to represent the artists and to provide for the development of the industry. An important part of this development is to build capacity and funding. One method for doing this would be the creation of an Arts Foundation that would be able to raise profile and funding for the community (Which could include a facility in the future). There needs to be balance as there are limited funds available and having funds dedicated to a facility at this stage may serve to dilute funding and energies.