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Premier of Saskatchewan Room 226, 2405 Legislative Drive Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Premier Moe,

The continuing disruption of COVID-19 on the arts sector has been life-altering. While many in the sector have been able to transform their business models to include online offerings, the limited income generated through online ventures is not a long-term solution. Venues, presenters, and artists are postponing their shows in order to follow Dr. Shahab's recommendations on limiting crowd size and exposure to anyone outside of school or work in an effort to lessen the impact of this new variant.

Facing continued loss of sponsorship dollars, limited or no payments for performances, the reluctance of audience members to return to live events and the pressure of accumulated deficits, the arts sector is struggling.

As a collective voice for the arts, we ask that your government work with its federal counterparts to allow Saskatchewan workers access to the recently announced Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit, something they are ineligible for without provincial mandates on gathering limits.

To continue as we have been is to continue to negatively impact workers throughout the province, regardless of sector. Saskatchewan based workers are the only people in Canada not eligible for these supports. Again, we ask your government to work towards finding a solution to this troubling issue.

The arts and creative industries add value to our province – economically and socially. The sector builds stronger and happier communities, gives us a sense of belonging and civic pride, improves mental health, increases innovative thinking in our students, and contributes to the province's GDP. The arts sector is an important part of the solution to building a stronger province.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Daniel Parr, President

Sincerely,

Saskatchewan Arts Alliance