



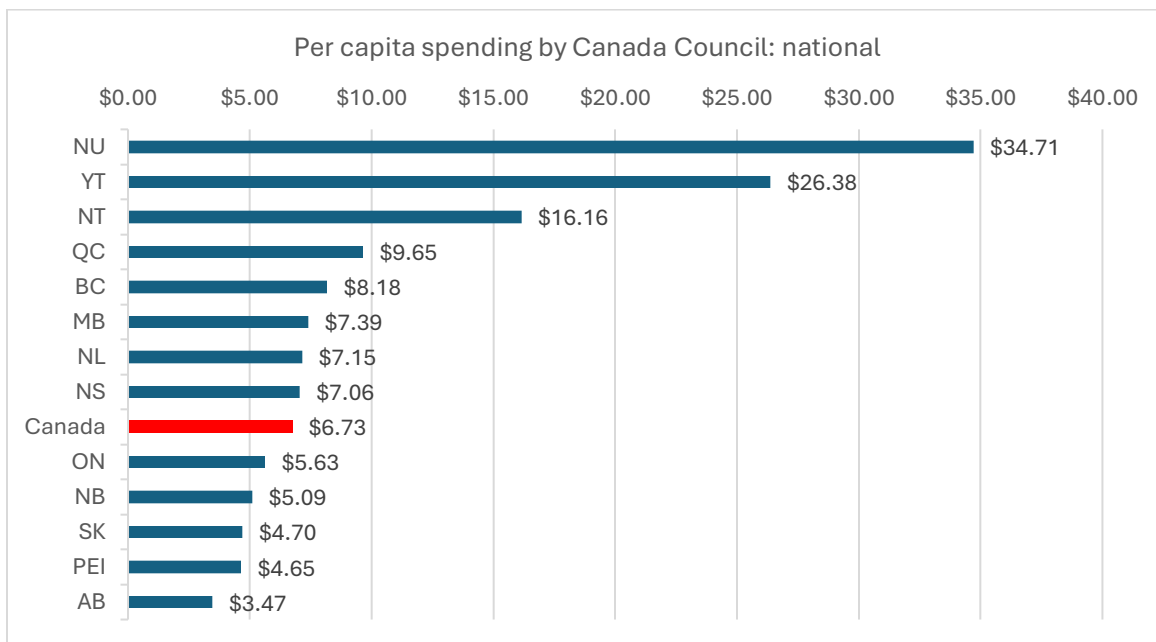
SAA Responds to Alberta Focus Fund

June 29, 2026

On June 14th, Canada Council [announced an investment of \\$25 million](#) into the arts in Alberta. This investment aims to help artists and arts organizations, supporting more artistic projects and strengthen Alberta's art sector.

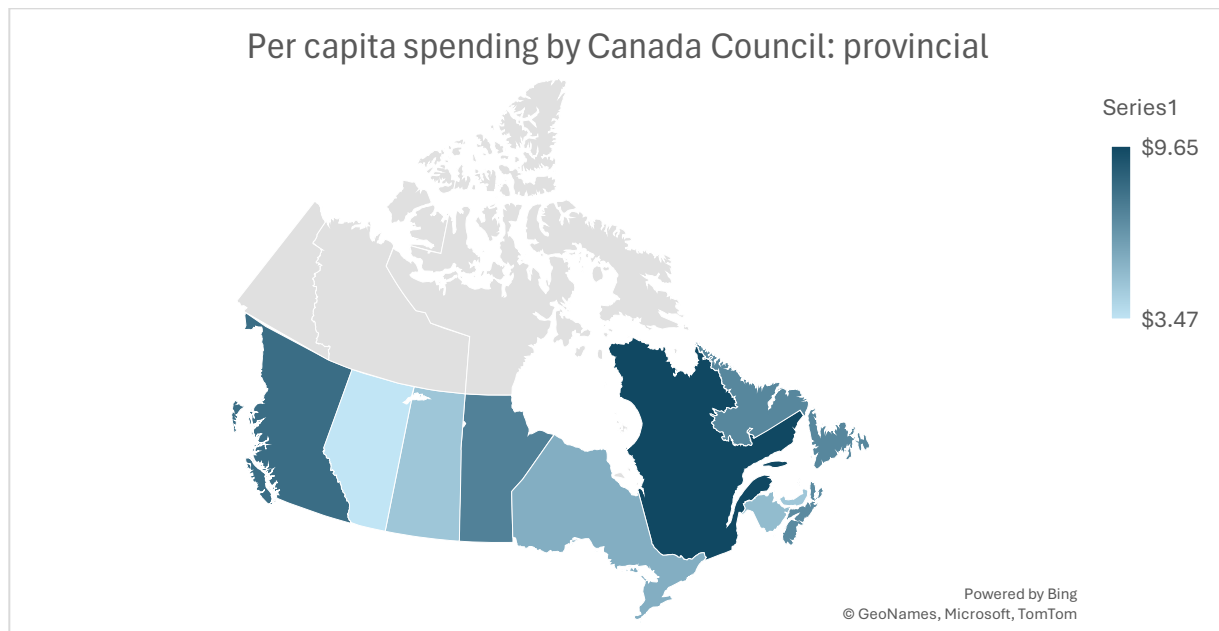
The SAA is always happy to see an increased investment in the arts; especially when it comes to Alberta, our prairie neighbour, the province that receives the least per capita funding (\$3.47) from Canada Council of all of the provinces and territories.

We applaud the idea of geographically-focused investment as a way of supporting the arts sector in communities and provinces that have historically been, and continue to be comparatively underfunded.



Due to their low populations, and targeted funding programs, the territories show a much higher per capita investment than those in other provinces.

Nevertheless, Saskatchewan remains one of the lowest in terms of per capita funding;¹ third only to PEI and Alberta. Along with Ontario and New Brunswick, these five provinces receive less per capita funding from Canada Council than national per capita spending.²



This discrepancy is not immaterial, there are real, tangible consequences to the difference in per capita spending. Saskatchewan artists and arts organization face fiercer competition relative to population when applying for grants.

This lack of funding only compounds over time, as the lack of investment in infrastructure arts organizations leads to less capacity and less sustainability among organizations, less long-term employment for workers in arts & culture and less arts programming.

The gap in funding exists not only in real-dollar investment but in per capita spending as well. This is not simply an issue of provinces with lower populations receiving less funding than those with larger populations, it is an issue of less per person investment in certain provinces.

As mentioned, the SAA is pleased with the recent investment into the Alberta arts sector, and, having met with members of Canada Council staff, are glad to hear that the per capita funding gap is acknowledged and identified as a structural equity issue that Canada Council is committed to improving. We look forward to working with Canada Council as part of their outreach and investigation into ways in which this gap can potentially be lessened within Saskatchewan.

The SAA will continue to advocate to the federal government for increased funding for Canada Council in order to help them meet this goal, and to provide a broader range of financial support across the country.

¹ Figures drawn from Statistics Canada. [Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates, quarterly](#) and [Canada Council for the Arts. 2024-25 funding by province and territory](#).

² If the territories are excluded from equation, national per capita spending lowers to \$6.67.