



**Canada Council for the Arts
Funding to artists
and arts organizations
in the Yukon, 2013-14**



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

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1.0 Overview of Canada Council funding to the Yukon in 2013-14

- In 2013-14, the Canada Council for the Arts provided \$492,578 in grants to artists and arts organizations in the Yukon.
- In addition to grants, \$8,031 in payments was provided to 31 authors through the Public Lending Right program.¹ This brings the total amount of Canada Council funding to the Yukon to \$500,609 in 2013-14.
- The Canada Council awarded \$69,465 to 12 Yukon artists, and \$423,113 to 10 arts organizations in the Yukon in 2013-14.
- Grants were awarded in many disciplines – inter-arts, media arts, music, theatre, visual arts, writing and publishing and through the Canada Council's Aboriginal Arts Office. The largest amounts of funding went to media arts (\$154,970), followed by theatre (\$89,083) and visual arts (\$70,200).
- 61 applications from Yukon artists and arts organizations were submitted to Council in 2013-14, representing 0.4% of the total number of received applications.
- Funding to artists and arts organizations in Whitehorse totalled \$420,628, comprising 85.4% of the total funding going to the Yukon. Dawson received \$66,700, or 13.5% of total funding, while Teslin received \$3,000 (0.6%). Burwash Landing also received \$2,250 representing 0.5% of total funding.
- In 2013-14, Yukon artists received 0.32% of Canada Council funding to artists and Yukon arts organizations received 0.35% of the funding to arts organizations. In total, Yukon artists and arts organizations received 0.35% of Canada Council funding. In comparison, the Yukon makes up 0.15% of artists,² and 0.10% of the Canadian population.³
- Five Yukon artist/arts professional served as a peer assessor in 2013-14, making up 0.83% of all peer assessors.

¹ The Public Lending Right program provides payments to authors whose books are held in selected Canadian public libraries.

² Hill Strategies Research Inc. "Artists in Canada's Provinces and Territories Based on the 2006 Census," *Statistic Insights on the Arts*, Vol.7 No. 5, March 2009, <<http://www.hillstrategies.com/content/artists-canada%E2%80%99s-provinces-and-territories>>.

³ Statistics Canada: Canada's National Statistical Agency. "Population by year, by province and territory," November 2013, <<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/demo02a-eng.htm>>.

2.0 Statistical highlights about the arts in the Yukon⁴

- Over \$38 million was spent on culture by all levels of government in Yukon in 2009-10. Per capita cultural spending in the Yukon ranks second among provinces/territories in terms of federal contribution (\$576) and first in terms of the provincial/territorial investment (\$539).
- In 2006, there were 210 artists in Yukon, representing 1.04% of the overall territorial labour force.
- In 2006, the median earnings of artists in Yukon are \$12,000, just over one-third of the typical earnings of all Yukon workers (\$31,200).

⁴ Sources

Hill Strategies Research Inc. "Artists in Canada's Provinces and Territories Based on the 2006 Census," *Statistic Insights on the Arts*, Vol.7 No. 5, March 2009, <<http://www.hillstrategies.com/content/artists-canada%E2%80%99s-provinces-and-territories>>.

Statistics Canada: Canada's National Statistical Agency. "Government Expenditures on Culture: Data Tables 2009-10," April 2012, <<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/87f0001x/2012001/part-partie4-eng.htm>>.

3.0 Highlights of Canada Council grants to the Yukon artists and arts organizations

Arts organizations

The Canada Council supports the work of arts organizations. In 2013-14, some of the Yukon arts organizations that received funding were:

Organization	Community	Total funding
Dawson City Arts Society	DAWSON	\$61,700
Gwaandak Theatre Society	WHITEHORSE	\$68,500
Nakai Theatre Ensemble	WHITEHORSE	\$42,583
Yukon Arts Centre Public Art Gallery	WHITEHORSE	\$45,000
Yukon First Nations Culture & Tourism Association	WHITEHORSE	\$30,000
Yukon Public Libraries, Dept. of Community Services, Gov't of Yukon	WHITEHORSE	\$6,200

Examples of Canada Council funding in the Yukon⁵

The Canada Council supports the endeavours of professional artists and arts organizations through its programs. The following selection illustrates some of the activities supported by the Canada Council in the Yukon.

Yukon's **Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre** is collaborating with the Dawson City Museum to present the *Northern Athapaskan Beading Exhibit* – the second in a series focusing on beadwork practices from a northern perspective. Beading practices of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Vuntut Gwitch'in will be shown through contemporary and traditional works by artists from Alaska, and central and northern Yukon. The beadwork will be on display alongside historical works from the Dawson City Museum collection. The purpose of the exhibition is to bring awareness to the general public, artists, curators and scholars on how beading emerged out of specific historical/colonial contexts, and how social and cultural circumstances resulted in this rich art practice. The Centre received its first grant of \$5,000 through the Aboriginal/Inuit Traditional Visual Art Forms Program for Organizations.

In February 2014, Whitehorse-based theatre artist/actor **Brian Fidler** held a month-long workshop to work on a script, build puppets and create sets to test out ideas and story concepts for his new science fiction puppet show *Tombstone: A Sci-Fi Western*. Fidler will expand on the video puppetry concept he developed in *Sci-Fi Double Feature* (2012) in which he used a shadow puppet screen that could spin around allowing the audience to watch the backstage action. The production will explore, through Hank and his trusty sidekick Rusty the horse, the theme of technology gone awry, combining the Western's techniques and style with science fiction's quirky sensibilities. Fidler was awarded \$3,000 through the Grants to Theatre Artists program to work on the production which he plans to develop further in summer 2014.

⁵ Unless otherwise indicated, project descriptions and quotations are drawn from documents in the grant application.

The **Yukon Arts Centre Public Art Gallery** in Whitehorse builds connections between visual arts in both northern and southern Canada, with the goal of broadening the public's awareness and understanding of contemporary visual arts practice. Their independent curator series has brought a new perspective to the community, bringing together unexpected pairings of artists while continuing to program solo exhibitions of Northern artists like Jane Isakson and Jennifer Walden. Submissions were collected for the Gallery's 2014 Chilkoot Trail Artist Residency, presented with Parks Canada and the US National Park Service. Two artists will be chosen to hike the historic pass – taking their time, creating art, presenting workshops and giving evening fireside talks along the way – followed by an artist talk upon their return. The Gallery will receive \$135,000 over three years through the Grants to Art Museums and Public Galleries program for its activities.

The **Yukon Public Libraries** organized the Live Words!: Yukon Writers' Festival in Whitehorse and readings in its 14 branches – many of which are located in rural communities. Participating authors included two Vancouver-based authors: comedian and humorist Charles Demers, who made audiences laugh in Haines Junction, Faro and Tagish, YT, and writer/actor Renelitta Arluk, who will entertain audiences in Burwash, Carcross, Whitehorse, Pelly, Mayo and Dawson City in September 2014. The authors were chosen for their interest in travelling to community libraries, sharing their work, visiting rural communities and seeing the Yukon landscape. Yukon Public Libraries received \$6,200 through the Literary Readings and Residencies Program: Readings program.

In autumn 2013, Whitehorse visual artists **Jane Isakson** and **Joyce Majiski** took part in The Arctic Circle artist residency. The three-week residency brought together 27 multidisciplinary artists from 11 different countries to travel by tall ship amidst the archipelago of Spitsbergen (north of Norway) to create works independently and through creative collaborations – both on and off the ship. "Participating in this residency was expanding on several levels, wrote Isakson. "The Arctic environment was completely enchanting. Experimenting with the art form of installation was new to me; the activities and experiences will take my paintings in a new direction." Both Isakson and Majiski received \$2,500 through the Travel Grants to Professionals in the Visual Arts program to attend the residency.

In November 2013, Whitehorse singer/songwriter **Sarah MacDougall** performed with her band at the Iceland Airwaves new music festival in Reykjavik. The opportunity to perform to the sold-out audience (which included many media and industry contacts) led to increased international exposure for the singer/songwriter. And meeting the artists and attending the shows helped the band hone their performance skills. Now MacDougall has new opportunities to present her upcoming album, exploring her Swedish/Canadian and northern heritage through Swedish language and musical influences. This first-time recipient received two Canada Council grants in 2013: \$4,000 through the Audience and Market Development Travel Grants Program: International, and \$11,000 through the Music: Production Grants program to record her new album.

In the summer of 2013, Tlingit and Peruvian cultures came together to create a stone sculpture to commemorate the tragic flood of 2010 in the town of Pisa, Peru. Visual artists **Doug Smarch** of Tselin, YT and ceramic artist Rene Franco Salas used stone taken from the flooded river and carved frogs using designs from their respective cultures, while sharing methodologies and techniques throughout the process. The frog is a symbol of the rain god, and was created as "a plea for help and a reminder to pray... that the frogs will sing again and the river and rain will be balanced." For Smarch, the frog became an art piece with dual meaning, as both a symbol of good luck and respect for his culture. Smarch received \$3,000 through the Travel Grants for Aboriginal Collaborative Projects program for the two-week project.

4.0 Detailed tables of Canada Council funding to the Yukon

Canada Council for the Arts funding to the Yukon

- Since 2004-05, Canada Council funding to the Yukon has increased by 42.40% from \$345,915 in 2004-05 to \$492,578 in 2013-14.
- Grants to the Yukon as a percentage of total Canada Council funding over the past ten fiscal years ranged from 0.27% to 0.42%. In 2013-14, it stands at 0.35%.

**Table 1: Canada Council grants to the Yukon and
Canada Council total grants, 2004-05 to 2013-14**

Fiscal year	Grant \$ to Yukon Territory	Canada Council total grant \$	Yukon Territory as % of total
2004-05	\$345,915	\$121,455,742	0.28%
2005-06	\$504,800	\$120,519,422	0.42%
2006-07	\$582,225	\$140,838,547	0.41%
2007-08	\$453,555	\$152,803,607	0.30%
2008-09	\$511,427	\$145,639,343	0.35%
2009-10	\$524,510	\$146,136,164	0.36%
2010-11	\$399,280	\$142,324,085	0.28%
2011-12	\$479,225	\$145,148,810	0.33%
2012-13	\$380,981	\$141,695,453	0.27%
2013-14	\$492,578	\$142,072,039	0.35%
% Change	42.40%	16.97%	

**Table 2: Canada Council grants to the Yukon
by discipline, 2013-14**

Discipline	Artists	Arts organizations	Total
Aboriginal Arts Office	\$3,750	\$55,000	\$58,750
Audience & Market Development	\$13,815	\$31,660	\$45,475
Dance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equity Office	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inter-Arts Office	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Media Arts	\$0	\$154,970	\$154,970
Music	\$17,900	\$0	\$17,900
Prizes Section	\$0	\$0	\$0
Theatre	\$3,000	\$86,083	\$89,083
Visual Arts	\$6,000	\$64,200	\$70,200
Writing and Publishing	\$25,000	\$6,200	\$31,200
Total grants to the Yukon	\$69,465	\$423,113	\$492,578
Total Canada Council grants	\$21,431,038	\$120,641,001	\$142,072,039
Grants to the Yukon as a % of total Canada Council grants	0.32%	0.35%	0.35%

Grant applications from the Yukon

- Since 2004-05 the total number of grant applications from Yukon artists and arts organizations has decreased from 69 in 2004-05 to 61 in 2013-14, a decrease of 11.59%. In 2013-14, the Yukon share of grant applications (0.41%) is almost three times its share of artists (0.15%) and four times its share of population (0.10%) – see Table 4.

Table 3: Grant applications to the Canada Council from the Yukon and total grant applications to the Canada Council, 2004-05 to 2013-14

Fiscal year	Grant applications from Yukon Territory	Total Canada Council grant applications	Yukon Territory as % of total
2004-05	69	16,572	0.42%
2005-06	106	15,831	0.67%
2006-07	86	15,663	0.55%
2007-08	58	14,768	0.39%
2008-09	64	15,305	0.42%
2009-10	75	16,139	0.46%
2010-11	77	15,443	0.50%
2011-12	66	15,694	0.42%
2012-13	60	14,727	0.41%
2013-14	61	14,901	0.41%
% Change	-11.59%	-10.08%	

These numbers include applications not assessed, deemed ineligible or transferred to another program.

The Yukon – Various comparisons with other provinces⁶

- The Yukon is in second place in terms of its level of Canada Council grant funding on a per capita basis per province at \$13.42, due to its small population of 36,700 people.¹ The Yukon's share of grant funding is significantly higher than the province's percentage share of population and share of artists.

Table 4: Yukon – various comparisons with other provinces, 2013-14					
Province or territory	per capita Canada Council Grant	% share of grant funding	% share of Canada Council grant applications	% share of population	% share of artists
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$2.76	1.02%	1.05%	1.50%	0.86%
Prince Edward Island	\$3.13	0.32%	0.31%	0.41%	0.34%
Nova Scotia	\$4.45	2.95%	2.89%	2.68%	2.67%
New Brunswick	\$2.85	1.51%	1.35%	2.15%	1.36%
Quebec	\$5.60	32.15%	31.62%	23.20%	21.54%
Ontario	\$3.47	33.07%	32.69%	38.51%	40.60%
Manitoba	\$5.12	4.56%	2.97%	3.60%	2.80%
Saskatchewan	\$3.06	2.39%	1.68%	3.15%	2.17%
Alberta	\$2.08	5.90%	4.93%	11.45%	8.68%
British Columbia	\$4.38	14.13%	15.66%	13.03%	18.49%
Yukon	\$13.42	0.35%	0.41%	0.10%	0.15%
Northwest Territories	\$3.85	0.13%	0.22%	0.12%	0.13%
Nunavut	\$15.50	0.39%	0.15%	0.10%	0.18%
Other	...	1.13%	4.07%
Total	(Mean: \$4.00)	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

⁶ Sources:

Statistics Canada: Canada's National Statistical Agency. "Population by year, by province and territory," November 2013, <<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/demo02a-eng.htm>>.

Hill Strategies Research Inc. "Artists in Canada's Provinces and Territories Based on the 2006 Census," *Statistic Insights on the Arts*, Vol.7 No. 5, March 2009, <<http://www.hillstrategies.com/content/artists-canada%E2%80%99s-provinces-and-territories>>.

**Table 5: Grant funding by community,
Yukon, 2013-14**

Community	Amount
BURWASH LANDING	\$2,250
DAWSON	\$66,700
TESLIN	\$3,000
WHITEHORSE	\$420,628
Total - Yukon	\$492,578
Total - Canada	\$142,072,039
Grants to Yukon as a % of total Canada Council funding	0.35%