

OTTAWA  
September 17, 2009

Hon. James Moore, PC, MP  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
15 Eddy Street  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M5

**Re: Recording Grant for Specialised Music**

Dear Minister Moore,

I am writing today to express my deep concern over the damaging impact of the cuts to Canada Council's Recording Grant for Specialised Music. As a music creator myself, I know the crucial role this funding plays in the development of up-and-coming Canadian musicians. It's quite clear that many of these wonderful artists would have been unlikely to make it onto my iPod or yours without this important program. I implore you to reverse this decision and leave the grant in place through Canada Council.

It is simply not feasible to expect FACTOR to fill the void that will be left by the elimination of this funding.

Canada has a proud tradition of support for innovative music. This has helped foster a music scene of international importance.

My concern is that this crucial element of Canada's rich music sector will disappear under this funding regime, and that the effects might not be seen for several years down the road – when a generation of songwriters' sounds and stories will be lost to us.

As a twice-nominated Juno performer I know firsthand the importance of maintaining cultural policies that foster innovation in Canada's musical community. I also know that using federal programs to simply rubber-stamp the most commercially successful is a shortsighted view on the need to maintain long term investments in Canadian musical innovation and diversity.

Please reconsider and reverse this decision.

Thank you in advance, and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Charlie Angus, MP  
Timmins – James Bay  
NDP Heritage Critic