

## Second Arts Day at the Legislative Assembly

**Fredericton, December 12, 2012** - The second annual Arts Day at the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick was held yesterday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, in Fredericton. This initiative led by the Association acadienne des artistes professionnel.le.s du Nouveau-Brunswick (AAAPNB), ArtsLink NB and the New Brunswick Arts Board (**artsnb**) held meetings with the Progressive-Conservative and Liberal caucuses, as well as with the New Democratic Party and the Green Party.

The three partners have reminded the government, the official opposition and the opposition parties that the arts are a key partner that should be used to overcome the challenges facing today's province. According to the Chairman of **artsnb**, Tim Borlase: "The parties have responded positively to the data that was collected by the Conference Board of Canada that states that the arts and culture industry in Canada is the fourth largest industry, ahead of mining and exploration of oil and gas." Since 2009, the artistic community of New Brunswick has a *Global strategy for the Integration of Arts and Culture in NB*, translated into English in collaboration with ArtsLink NB. This strategy aims to ensure the well-being of the population, to attract new residents and increase the ingenuity and creativity of New Brunswickers. It has been recognized by the government and the official opposition as an essential tool for the challenges that need to be overcome in New Brunswick.

Sara Griffin, Executive Director of ArtsLink NB says: "We have benefited from Arts Day to talk about the ongoing renewal of the cultural policy. By updating this policy, we need to reassess the role of arts and culture in our communities. By infusing the arts at the heart of our communities, we are engaging our rural and immigrant populations by providing greater access to culture for all citizens of the province."

For this occasion, the AAAPNB, ArtsLink NB and **artsnb** reaffirmed to the elected members of the province the need to recognize the profession of artist by adopting a law on the status of the artist with legal, social and tax provisions. Louise Lemieux, president of the AAAPNB adds: "The government has reiterated its pledge to recognize the profession of an artist, as stated in its election platform. At present, a large number of MPs do not know that there are professional standards and pay scales in effect in the country. We want to change this situation and implement measures that support the profession. Members of Parliament have shown a keen interest in modalities that represent such recognition."

ArtsLink NB's mandate is to advance the arts in New Brunswick by linking and unifying artists and arts organizations and promoting their value to the community. [www.artlinksnb.com](http://www.artlinksnb.com)

The Association acadienne des artistes professionnel.le.s du Nouveau-Brunswick (AAAPNB) is an Acadian arts service organization for professional artists. The mission of the association is to protect the rights and represent the interests of artists, and to promote the recognition of their contributions to society. [www.aaapnb.ca](http://www.aaapnb.ca)

The New Brunswick Arts Board (**artsnb**) is an arm's length arts funding agency with a legislated mandate to facilitate and promote the creation of art as well as administering funding programs for professional artists in the province. [www.artsnb.ca](http://www.artsnb.ca)