

Letter: ArtsNB was doing a fine job with its money

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The following is an open letter to Premier Brian Gallant and Minister Bill Fraser.

In an April 22 article in The Daily Gleaner (Culture minister defends decision to make cuts to arts board budget), Minister Fraser suggests that ArtsNB is unaccountable and inefficient. The facts do not bear this out.

ArtsNB produces annual reports accounting for every dollar they are entrusted with (reports that are easily accessible online), and the list of programs and services that they provide to artists, a list far too long to reprint in this space, could not be replicated by government for anywhere near the same costs. ArtsNB is transparent and efficient.

It would seem to me (if the government's intent is to save money) that it would be wise to consider folding more programming and responsibilities – in fact, all artistic creation funding programs – into the ArtsNB mandate, just as Dr. Monica Gattinger's independent report recommends. As I understand it, the efficiencies implemented on a greater scale would result in increased savings.

Perhaps then those greater savings could be put toward the debt. A prudent move would be to put decision on hold, study the Gattinger report, and consult more broadly with artists.

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