

Questions from the Q&A box - Business / Arts Speaker Series - March 2025

**Do you think that a conservative government would fund anything dealing with anti-racism?
Would they dismantle the Anti-Racism Secretariat?**

It is too early to say what a Conservative government would do with specific programs if elected. The only clear indicators for action they would take in the early days of their mandate would be to defund the CBC. Outside of that, it would be up to the new Minister (in alignment with the mandate letter from the Prime Minister), as to what actions they would take.

What advice would you give to organizations who feel they have not been heard by political offices?

There are three main avenues you can follow. Start with the party critic/Minister on the file, second move to the party leadership - there is someone in each leader's office assigned to Heritage. Finally, reach out to your own MP - as all politics is local.

Is there a difference in how you approach advocacy with local MPs who may not be in either the governing coalition or opposition party? For example - if an MP is NDP or BQ in the event of an LPC/CPC majority.

Working in a majority setting is clearly more challenging than a minority one, where the party in power needs the support of one or more parties to move legislation, so the voice of that MP in a third or fourth party has more power. That being said, what you see in Question Period with the adversarial nature between parties does not always translate to the relationships on Parliament Hill. Your local MP can provide a strong voice, and the good ones will build relationships with those in government that can still be used to move the needle forward on good policy initiatives.

What are the impacts of tariffs put on by Canadian governments on US goods and products? How does it affect artists' supplies? Which Arts subsector is most vulnerable to these tariffs?

This question is very much a moving target that will be in greater focus after April 2nd when the reciprocal tariffs are expected to be implemented by US President Trump. PAA has a daily Trade tracker that we can send your way with the latest details on all things related to tariffs. Just reach out to me at sean.casey@paainc.ca and I will ensure your name is added.