

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026
EAGLE ROOM
10:30 AM**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer/Reflection
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
5. Public Matters
 - a) Briefing on Arts Funding Redesign with Honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
6. In Camera Matters
 - a) Debrief
 - b) Internal Briefing on Bill 50: *Marine Transportation Corporation Act*
 - c) Internal Briefing on 2025 Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue Meeting
7. New Business
 - a)
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 1:30p.m.
9. Adjournment



Strengthening the NWT Arts Sector 2026/2027 Arts Funding Re-Design

Industry, Tourism, and Investment

June 4, 2026



WHY CHANGE WAS NEEDED

- Split delivery between ITI and ECE created:
 - Fragmented programs
 - Client confusion
 - Inconsistent access
- Sector underperformance
 - Limited federal funding uptake
 - Declining economic output over time



WHAT WE HEARD

- Across artists, organizations, and regions:
 - Programs were hard to navigate
 - Gaps in support to arts businesses, and artist travel and touring for market access
 - Limited pathway to grow from small to large projects
 - Need for stronger regional delivery and equity



WHAT'S NOT CHANGING

- Continued support for:
 - Individual artists
 - Non-profit arts organizations
- Commitment to:
 - Non-commercially driven artistic practice
 - Regional responsiveness and community context



HOW THIS CONNECTS TO THE ARTS STRATEGY

- Funding model is a core implementation tool of the strategy
- Aligns with priorities
 - Sector development and sustainability
 - Increased participation across regions
 - Indigenous and community-based arts growth
- Supports both:
 - Creative practice
 - Economic opportunity
- Provides structure to move from strategy - outcomes



FUNDING MODEL (AT A GLANCE)

- Tiered pathway-based approach

LEVEL	PURPOSE
Small Arts Project Fund	Access + Participation
Medium Arts Project Grant	Development + Progression
Large Arts Project Fund	Scale + Impact
Arts Operating Fund	Stability + Sustainability

- Plus targeted funds to support:
 - Business Support, Travel & Touring, Artist to Market, Film & Media



ITI Arts Principal Funding

Funding Program	Funding Instrument	Target Recipient(s)	Application Intake	Application Adjudication
Small Arts Projects	Grants <\$5k	Artists & Organizations	Rolling	Regional Offices
Business Supports	Contribution Agreements <\$10k	Artists & Organizations	Rolling	Regional Offices
Travel & Touring	Contribution Agreements Formula-Based	Artists & Organizations	Rolling	Regional Offices
Medium Arts Projects	Grants \$5k - \$15k	Artists & Organizations	Quarterly	NWT Arts Council
Large Arts Projects	Contribution Agreements \$15k - \$100k	Organizations	Annual	ITI HQ
Arts Operating	Contribution Agreements < \$200k	Organizations	Annual & Multi-year	ITI HQ
Film and Media: PIP Pre-Development	Contribution Agreements < \$10k	Artists (Film)	Annual	ITI HQ
Film and Media: PIP Development	Contribution Agreements < \$25k	Artists (Film)	Annual	ITI HQ
Film and Media: Sector Initiatives	Contribution Agreements < \$25k	Organizations (Film)	Annual	ITI HQ

ITI Arts Special Projects

Artist To Market Program	Contribution Agreements	Artists	Annual	ITI HQ
Arts Organization Incubator	Contribution Agreements	Organizations	Rolling	ITI HQ

ITI Arts Sector Services

NWT Arts Program - Individual artists, arts organizations, and art retailers - Promotions, marketing and advertising support and services	Arts Funding Services - Individual artists and arts organizations - NWT Arts Council - Funding application processing and awarding	Hide and Fur Program - Shipping to distributors across the NWT - 20% commission to distributors - Harvest to Market "GMVP" branding	Regional Arts Budgets - Shipping and artwork - Regional market spaces - Local artists workshops/meetings about ITI services
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Film Commission

Film Rebate Program
Film Suppliers Guide

VISION FOR THE ARTS SECTOR

- A stronger, more coordinated arts ecosystem
 - Support:
 - Creative practice
 - Business development
 - Community programming
 - Build:
 - Arts Organizations and infrastructure
 - Access to national funding and markets
- Clear progression for artists and organizations
 1. Small arts projects – entry and experimentation
 2. Medium arts projects – capacity building and peer assessment
 3. Large arts projects – major initiatives and partnerships
 4. Arts Operating funding – stable organizations



NEW SUPPORTS FILLING KEY GAPS

- Targeted investments where gaps existed:
 - Arts Business Support
 - Equipment, inventory, e-commerce, marketing and promotion
 - Travel & Touring
 - Travel support for market access and exposure
 - Artist to Market
 - Coordinated professional development and cohort opportunities



INVESTMENT OVERVIEW

- Total Program Envelope = \$2.06M
 - Build from:
 - ECE program consolidation
 - SEED reallocations
 - Historic expenditure patterns
- Shift toward fewer, higher-impact investments
- Protect entry-level access (Small Arts Fund)
- Stabilize core organizations (Operating Fund)
- Enable growth through Large Fund expansion



ACCOUNTABILITY & DECISION MAKING

- Regional + HQ Adjudication Model
- Peer review (NWT Arts Council) for Medium Projects
- Public scoring criteria (weighting based on program):
 - Artistic Merit
 - Feasibility
 - Impact
- Criteria weighting based on program



DATA & PERFORMANCE

- Stronger tracking and reporting
 - Centralized digital intake (planned)
 - Key indicators:
 - Participation growth
 - Regional distribution
 - Funding leverage
 - Artistic progression



MEASURING SUCCESS

- Participation and access across regions
- Growth in artist and organizations
- Progression across funding tiers
- External funding leveraged (e.g., federal)
- Economic and community impacts
- Improved data through digital intake system



WHAT THIS MEANS

- For artists & organizations:
 - Easier access and clearer pathways
 - More responsive regional support
 - Better access to markets and national funding
- A stronger foundation for the arts in the NWT
 - Coordinated, accessible, growth-oriented, regionally responsive, diversified revenue

