



THE HONOURABLE SENATOR PATRICIA BOVEY

QUOTES FROM HER SPEECH,
IDENTITY: ARTISTS, THE SENATE & CANADA
FROM THE CCF/FCMA 2018 CONFERENCE, *PLACEMAKING: THE UNIQUE
CONNECTION BETWEEN CRAFT, COMMUNITY + TOURISM*

The arts are the third largest employer in Canada, 3.3% of our workforce, double the number in forestry, and more than double the number in banks. 609,000 work in the cultural sector; 135,000 in the automobile industry. The second is the economy where the arts industries contribute about 7.4% of the country's GDP, and pays in taxes MORE THAN 3 times the \$7.9Billion governments paid directly on culture in 2007.

- Canadian artists earn 39% less than the overall labour force average
- Sadly, 15% of artists either have no earnings or lose money on their self-employment activities; 27% earn less than \$10,000, and 18% earn between \$10,000 and \$19,999.
- The number of Artists with a BA or higher is nearly double that of the whole workforce, 44% versus 25%, and on average, they earn 55% less than other workers with the same education level
- Women artists earn 31% less than their male counterparts

Artists have the insights and vision to see and express societal crises long before the rest of society recognizes them, and Canada's Indigenous artists' work has been particularly poignant on a number of issues. Joane Cardinal-Schubert's 1990s art installation *The Lesson*, for instance, a gutsy, clairvoyant and important clarion call to understanding and redress, predated the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

[READ THE REST OF SENATOR BOVEY'S SPEECH HERE](#)