

Peace Liard Regional Arts Council Framework Policy

I. Statement of Cultural Context and Challenge

The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council was incorporated in 1989 for the purpose of broadening the opportunities for the development of and networking in arts, culture and heritage for the people of northeast British Columbia.

A. Characteristics of the Region

There are several underlying physical conditions in the regions which make the work of the Regional Arts Council a challenge. The factors which influence the success of the activities carried out by this group are:

1. The geographical distance between the major communities of Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope, and Tumbler Ridge. Travelling between these communities takes time and consideration of the sometimes rough road conditions.
2. The extreme winter conditions in the region.
3. The small populations concentrated in each of the major centers as well as the rural population served by each center.
4. The transient populations in many of the centers.
5. The integrity of much of the population. Many people are realists, survivors of harsh conditions, independent thinkers who take pride in doing things themselves, and people who will pull together only in a crisis or a strong issue of mutual concern.

B. Needs

There are definite needs which must be addressed by the regional arts council in order to carry out the council's activities. These needs are:

1. Communication between the community arts councils and other cultural agencies in the regions.
2. Co-operation amongst the cultural groups as to how to best get the job done.
3. Co-ordination between the various community arts councils and cultural organizations so efforts are not duplicated or omitted and so activities do not conflict.

C. Key Issues

In order for the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council to meet its mandate (or purpose for being established), the following issues have been identified to assist the regional arts council in focusing its vision and providing relevant leadership. Some of these issues are reflected in the objectives of the society's constitution.

1. Cultural Leadership

- a. To assist in coordinating arts programs of individuals, cultural associations, organizations, and communities.
- b. To provide support services to community arts organizations
- c. To communicate and act as a clearing house for information on regional arts programs and activities
- d. To foster cooperation between individuals and groups on arts related matters
- e. To foster an understanding and appreciation of and enlist public interest in the arts
- f. To liaise with various levels of government, foundations, and private organizations on arts related matters
- g. To stimulate an encourage the development of cultural projects and activities
- h. To foster interest and pride in the cultural heritage of the Peace-Liard regions
- i. To bring to the attention of civic and provincial authorities the cultural needs of these regions

2. Cultural Policy

- a. To establish a process for the development of comprehensive cultural frameworks, governance and operational policies for the regional and community arts councils served by the region in order to ensure their long term stability and relevance and in order to further stimulate cultural activity in the region.
- b. To bring to the attention of civic and provincial authorities the cultural needs of the Peace Liard region.
- c. To liaise with various levels of government, foundations and private organizations on arts related matters and to encourage in these organizations the development of cultural policy.
- d. To inform the membership, the public and the government on issues pertaining to the advancement of the arts.

3. Cultural Recovery

- a. To foster interest and pride in the cultural heritage of the Peace Liard region.
- b. To encourage public support, appreciation and participation in securing a positive future for the region's cultural programs, cultural workers and cultural artifacts.
- c. To develop an informed public knowledgeable of its past and present conditions, to secure the public plan of cultural expression within the social context of education, tourism, recreation, the economy and the culture.

4. Cultural Development

- a. To stimulate and encourage the development of cultural projects and activities within the region.
- b. To help facilitate opportunities for artists to celebrate, develop and share their work within the region.
- c. To foster an understanding and appreciation of and enlist public interest in the arts.

5. Multicultural Development

To recognize the value of all culture within the broader context of Canadian culture and to enhance the profile of artists within these cultures so that their work will be recognized and valued throughout the community in the Peace Liard region.

6. Maintaining and Enhancing

To maintain and enhance the arts and artistic activity which is at the center of the community, regional and provincial life of BC, with special emphasis on the public education system.

D. Mission

In carrying out these objectives the Peace Liard Regional Arts council will focus its activities on achieving the following mission:

The arts and cultural organizations of the region will be serviced by knowledgeable and skilled trustees who will raise the awareness of the public so that all may take part in shared cultural opportunities. The members of the cultural groups will define the "arts" and encourage the development and acceptance of the arts so that they become a valid part of personal and community life in the Peace Liard regions.

I. Statement of Target Focus and Partners

The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council seeks to bring about its mission in partnership with:

- A. Community Arts Councils in the Peace Liard Region
- B. Arts BC and BC Alliance for Arts
- C. Municipal, provincial and federal governments
- D. Regional Districts: Peace River Regional District and Northern Rockies Regional Municipality
- E. School Districts in the regions (#59, #60 and #81) and other educational institutions (such as Northern Lights College, UNBC, Grande Prairie Regional College and Emily Carr) establishing educational arts policies.
- F. BC Touring Council
- G. Trustees of dance, literary, music, theatre and visual arts organizations in the Peace Liard region which are registered as not-for-profit societies.
- H. The media.

II. Statement of Aims

In order to establish our mission, we require our partners to accomplish the following aims:

- A. The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council working in partnership with the community arts councils in the Peace Liard region will:
 - 1. Establish framework, governance and operational policies for their organizations
 - 2. Increase artistic activity in the communities of the region.
 - 3. Take part in shared advocacy activities in the communities of the regions to:
 - a. Increase residents' awareness of the arts as a part of daily life.
 - b. Remove a perceived elitism from cultural activities so that people may understand what and where culture is.
 - c. Attract more professionals who will become permanent residents in the north as art teachers and service personnel.
- B. The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council will provide foundation and leadership workshops to elevate the training of the trustees and volunteers in the regions.

- C. The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council working in partnership with the municipal governments in the region will:
 - 1. Establish cultural policies based on the framework policies of the arts organizations in the communities and the operational issues affecting the advancement of the cultural sector of the communities.
 - 2. Improve the appearance of the communities in the Peace Liard region, increase pride in the communities.
 - 3. Raise the value of the arts in the communities so the rate payers will support cultural issues.

- D. The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council working in partnership with the Cultural Services Branch of the provincial governments will establish a cultural policy which will provide for regional cultural coordinators.

- E. The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council working in partnership with the Regional Districts will:
 - 1. As public trustees, administer adequate funding to support the arts activities of the region.
 - 2. Develop a cultural policy for the regions.
 - 3. Raise the image of the Peace Liard region within the province.

- F. The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council working in partnership with the School Districts in the regions (#59, #60 and #81) and other educational institutions serving the region will:
 - 1. Provide increased community/school offerings such as cooperatives and artists in residence.
 - 2. Provide children and adults with a broader view of career choices in the cultural sector.
 - 3. Encourage the expansion of educational offerings in the schools and colleges.
 - 4. Encourage the establishment of operational policies for their arts programs.
 - 5. Build potential audiences for the future.

- G. The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council working with municipal government and regional districts will:
 - 1. See that the arts have a place in the economic dialogue of each community in our region.

2. Endeavor to establish the arts in our region as a viable economic entity.
- H. The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council working in partnership with the trustees of dance, literary, music, theatre, visual arts and heritage organizations in the Peace Liard region will:
1. Provide advocacy support for professional and semi-professional arts and heritage organizations.
 2. Build audiences.
 3. Provide a climate for the creative expression of arts and heritage.