



Arts North East
Box 190
Groundbirch, BC V0C 1T0

October 16th, 2023

To the PRRD Board,

My name is Haley Bassett, and I am the Executive Director of Arts North East (formerly the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council). I am writing regarding ANE's Permanent Art Collection (PAC).

Every year since 1987, ANE has selected an artwork from our Regional Juried Art Exhibition to add to our Permanent Art Collection, a public collection analogous to museum and gallery art collections. ANE maintains a digital and printed record of the PAC (please see the attached document).

ANE presented these artworks to the PRRD board during our annual reports. As a result, the PAC is primarily housed in the PRRD offices. Some pieces made their way to the NRRM office, depending on where the Juried Exhibition occurred. ANE made this arrangement as a gesture of goodwill to recognize PRRD's financial support. However, after collecting artwork for over 30 years, the PRRD office is likely at capacity. Also, the specific whereabouts and condition of these artworks are currently unknown. Additionally, the PRRD office is not ideal for viewing art, limiting the public's access to the collection. Due to these factors, the PAC program is currently at an impasse.

ANE's mandate is to support the development of arts, culture, and heritage in northeast BC. The PAC is an important part of that mission and must continue, but it is evident that the current arrangement is unsustainable. ANE is requesting the cooperation and assistance of the PRRD office to find an agreeable solution for both parties.

Here are some possibilities for your consideration:

- ANE is in the preliminary stages of acquiring a physical space in Dawson Creek, where we propose storing the collection in an archivally sound environment.
- ANE would like to locate the artworks, assess their condition, and restore them as required. We could hire summer students to assist with the project.



- ANE proposes making this public asset accessible through touring exhibitions in regional libraries, schools, and hospitals.
- ANE would like to continue acquiring works for the PAC to support emerging regional artists.
- ANE proposes exhibiting PAC works in a designated area of the PRRD office to recognize our relationship. ANE can rotate the PAC pieces annually to reflect the collection's growth.

ANE recognizes a project of this scope will take considerable time to resolve fully. We also acknowledge that this is uncharted territory for both parties, as there is no formal agreement regarding the PAC between ANE and the PRRD. This letter is simply the first step in a discussion. We hope the board will consider the opportunities presented here and select a point person or subcommittee to communicate with us regarding the PAC going forward. We look forward to working collaboratively with the PRRD to substantively improve this regional cultural asset.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Best wishes,



Haley Bassett, Executive Director
Arts North East
artsnortheast.org