

The Artist's Resale Right

Instituting the Artist's Resale Right would allow Canadian visual artists to share in the profits being made from their work and align Canada with our trading partners.

- The Artist's Resale Right would give artists 5% when their work is resold.
 - The full value of an artwork often isn't realized on the initial sale. It is common for visual art to appreciate in value over time as the reputation of the artist grows.
 - For example, Inuit artist, Kenojuak Ashevak, sold her piece *Enchanted Owl* in 1960 for \$24. It was later resold for \$58,650. Ashevak got nothing from the resale.
- Once established in Canada, artists would be able to benefit from reciprocal arrangements with other countries where the Artist's Resale Right exists.
 - At least 93 countries world-wide have legislated the Artist's Resale Right, including Australia, the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- Canada's Indigenous artists in particular are losing out on the tremendous profits being made on their work in the secondary market.
 - Many artists living in isolated northern communities live in impoverished conditions, while their work dramatically increases in value.
- The income potential of visual artists is much smaller than artists in other disciplines as they do not generally produce multiples.
 - Half of visual artists in Canada earn less than \$18,000 per year.
 - Even Governor General Award winning artists find it difficult if not impossible to make a living from their art. Some have incomes that fall significantly below the national average and others work full time jobs to subsidize their practice.
- The adoption of the Artist's Resale Right requires no ongoing costs for government.