



REGROUPEMENT NATIONAL DES ARTS DU CIRQUE  
NATIONAL CIRCUS ARTS ALLIANCE

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

## **Insufficient funding for circus arts in the 2020–2021 Quebec budget plan**

*Montreal, March 10, 2020* - En Piste, the National Circus Arts Alliance, is disappointed to learn the 2020–2021 Quebec budget plan — announced earlier today by Finance Minister Éric Girard in Quebec City — contains few measures that specifically address circus arts. This comes despite En Piste’s multiple efforts advocating to the government, including the submission during pre-budget consultations of a report on the current economic contributions of circus arts in Quebec.

While circus arts are flourishing in Quebec and continue to expand abroad, a recent economic study conducted by the firm Appeco reveals that companies, schools, presenters, artists and professionals are facing major financial challenges in the creation, production, dissemination and export of their work. Moreover, the repercussions of COVID-19 are already having a major impact on the sector, whose economy depends primarily on the export of its shows. Today, Cirque du Soleil announced it was cancelling and postponing several shows in Europe, Asia and the United States.

The budget announced today provides \$310.6 million over six years to foster the development of partnerships and projects of the creative industries and the cultural sector. The Alliance looks forward to seeing how circus arts will be considered in this plan. En Piste also salutes the improvements on tax credits for the production of shows, particularly in the circus arts sector.

However, the organization regrets that the Government of Quebec did not put in place short-term measures to address issues that, if not quickly resolved, could jeopardize what is one of Quebec’s most prized sectors.

“The Quebec circus industry is a global reference in the field and has solid assets that are waiting to be further recognized, supported and consolidated in order to enhance and further promote its creativity, talent and expertise,” said Marie-Claude Bouillon, Chair of En Piste’s Board of Directors. “Our contribution to Quebec’s cultural identity and cultural economy is threatened.”

In closing, En Piste will continue to advocate to the Minister of Culture and Communications, Nathalie Roy, and her colleagues in the Council of Ministers, and hopes that they will be sensitive both to the precarious situations of many of the organizations' members, and to the issues jeopardizing the field.

### **About En Piste**

Founded in 1997, En Piste, the National Circus Arts Alliance, brings together more than 400 individual members and organizations in the sector. It works to create favourable conditions for the development of the circus arts across Canada by bringing together the circus community, consolidating community cohesion, and promoting the circus to government authorities as well as to local, national and international audiences and presenters.

To consult En Piste's report on the current economic contributions of circus arts in Quebec (in French) visit: <https://urlz.fr/c2Z5>

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### **Information**

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